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JOHN BULL

VOL. XXIV. No. 648. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1918. TWOPENCE.
[*Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.*]

Wisdom up-to-date.
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Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

My Fourteen Points

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

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Send for Free Copy of Sir Hiram Maxim's New Book and learn of a quick and easy Common Sense Home Cure.
It is not only in the art of war that Sir Hiram Maxim's inventions are famous. The veteran inventor, who has done so much to help our brave soldiers in the fighting line, is now seen in a new mission—a Mission of Peace that will gladden the hearts of thousands of sufferers from catarrh, deafness, ear noises, asthma, hay fever and bronchitis. In brief, Sir Hiram Maxim has discovered a quick and simple home cure for all catarrhal troubles, and in order that all sufferers should have a free opportunity of learning how to cure their own ailments without interfering with their daily occupation he has published a most interesting little book which his Sole Licencees give away free to all who apply for it.
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The worthiest solution of the EGG problem.
Follow the lead of London's Greatest Chefs.
YOU need not be troubled about the high cost of eggs for a moment longer—the whole problem has been solved for you by London's most famous chefs. These men *have* to be right in their choice; at all costs they must keep up the reputation they have built, so in all culinary matters you are *safe* if you follow their lead.

Mons. A. P. GENET.
HALF-A-SCORE of the very greatest chefs in town, headed by the Chef at Marlborough House; M. Peythieu, of the Trocadero; M. Amblard of the Great Central Hotel; and M. Di Marco, of Princes', are unanimous in their choice—all of them have found GOODALL'S EGG POWDER a complete solution of their egg problems.
TO-DAY Mons. A. P. Genet, Chef at the Junior Naval & Military Club, adds his influential opinion.
Here is M. GENET'S letter:
"Having used Goodall's Egg Powder very considerably during the War, I am forced to admit that it clearly fulfils the use and effect of eggs.
All the pastry for which I employ it is deliciously light and palatable, and I have used it for many such needs.
Eggs are scarce to-day, and the need for an efficient substitute is evident to all who wish to present their dishes in the best possible manner.
Goodall's Egg Powder is, in my opinion, the worthiest achievement of British manufacturers in solving the egg problem."
Yours faithfully,
(Signed), A. P. GENET,
Chef Junior Naval & Military Club.
After such testimony as this, can you doubt that in
Goodall's Egg Powder
there exists one of the best war-time kitchen helps you can desire? It will save you three-fourths of the cost of eggs, yet give you (even with the present flour), cakes of the most perfect quality and richness and flavour.
1½d.-packets; 8d. and 1/4 tins.
NOT every grocer has it yet, but it is worth a little trouble to secure. Stocked by Harrods, Barkers, Selfridges, Whiteleys, World's Stores and Star Tea Co. (all branches), and most of the best London and provincial grocers and Stores. Write us if you have any difficulty in obtaining.
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JOHN BULL

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them.

Naught shall make us rue,
If Britain to itself do rest but true.

Vol. XXIV. No. 648. Week ending Saturday, November 2nd, 1918. Twopence.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE—*KAISER.*"

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

To the Albert Hall!

Of course you are coming on Saturday afternoon. You will see all about it in our leading article.

A Political Surprise.

Look out for it, and meantime don't run away with the idea that the Election is "all over bar the shouting."

South Shields.

We have been down—or, rather, up—to South Shields to give Havelock Wilson a hand. And, between us, we frightened his threatened opponent away.

The Doom of Racing.

The Government ban upon the winter sport means that there will be no further racing of *any* kind "for the duration." And in the meantime our best bloodstock will have gone abroad.

Lady M.P.s.

So women are to be eligible to sit in "Parliament"—which, we imagine, includes the House of Lords. It will follow, as another "corollary," that they will be eligible, later on, for the Army. And, later on, the Church, Bench, and the Bar.

Our Scheme.

We do not for a moment suppose that many will avail themselves of the new right. On the other hand, our scheme for setting up a separate Chamber, to consist of women, to deal with social and domestic legislation, would attract many who will fight shy of sitting in the Men's House.

Lord Reading.

The mystery of Lord Reading's sudden return to England is explained. He knew that Peace overtures were coming from Germany to America, and, after making himself acquainted with the views of the Allies, he will go back to talk things over with Mr. Wilson. It will be a delicate job—but "Rufus" has an old head on him.

Who Is It?

Apropos of the announcement that "a much-discussed Minister" will "not seek re-election," one of our readers sends us the following verse:—

A gentleman he never was,
But soon will be a peer;
He gained his honours all because
He sailed the wind so near.

As, however, our correspondent mentions no names, we can only suppose that "there ain't no such person"—as *Mr.* Harris!

That Indemnity?

A reader points out that apart from the Westphalian coal mines, Germany owns the Stassfurt potash mines, yielding a million tons annually. And we can do with some potash, you know.

Now We Know!

Thus Mr. George Lansbury (Parliamentary Candidate for Bow and Bromley): "I am a convinced, out-and-out Socialist, a Pro-Boer, and a Pacifist." What price the forfeiture of his deposit, under the new Act?

A Word with the Miners.

May we suggest to the Northumberland miners that they should have their General Secretary, Mr. W. Straker, sent before a Medical Board? In his latest monthly circular he shows signs of being overwrought.

Kaiser and Sultan.

It is not generally known that on his visit to Damascus, when he proclaimed himself "The Defender of Islam," the Kaiser forced the Sultan to declare a "Jehad"—in other words, a holy war against the Christians. Luckily, however, the Moslems were too loyal, and the Kaiser's little scheme fizzled out.

The Premier's Press.

It must have come as a bit of a shock to those who thought Sir Henry Dalziel's purchase of the *Daily Chronicle* and *Lloyd's* meant unqualified support of the Prime Minister, to read in the latter journal a fierce attack upon the Government, all the members of which were called fools and idiots.

"That's the Stuff!"

We haven't heard much of our old friend the Rev. Tom Collings (the "Fighting Parson") lately; but we notice that, preaching the other day at Southwark, he said he "always read JOHN BULL, and he hoped the Editor would stand for a 'Frightfulness' Campaign, which would teach a never-to-be-forgotten lesson to the foe." Hear, hear, and applause.

Mr. Henderson and Paris.

We were with Mr. Havelock Wilson at South Shields when the message came through the 'phone that "Henderson is just starting for Paris," and we were impressed with the quiet and confident order of the Seamen's leader: "Well, you know what to do." And they did!

Belated Thanks.

At last, through Sir Douglas Haig, we have a generous tribute to the splendid work, as Director-General of Medical Service, of Sir Arthur Sloggett—to whom most of the credit for the health of our troops in the West is due.

The Dickens Fair.

Isn't it about time we had the accounts relating to this function, held as long ago as September 17th?

Drink and Lunacy.

We thought that phrase would please the pumpuritans, but what we want to point out is that in Herefordshire and Devonshire—the two most important cider-making counties—lunacy statistics are highest. If only the people would stick to good, wholesome British beer!

The Thin End.

How the cranks will take advantage of War Emergency legislation to fasten it permanently upon the people is shown by Lord D'Abernon's plea for a continuance, after the war, of Drink Control regulations—all because "arrests from drunkenness" (with six million men away and the streets in darkness, and only swipes to drink) have decreased!

The Barber's Chair.

Apropos of the revelations of Mr. Davis, the Kaiser's dentist, as to what the All-Damnedest confided to him, our contemporary, *Everyweek*, wonders whether our Barber might be able to make some interesting disclosures. Well, when you come to think, it *would* be easier to discuss public affairs during a shave, than during a tooth extraction!

Cheap Goods.

Our American contemporary, *Leslie's Weekly*, has been publishing an appreciation of ourselves, from which we learn that we have "an immense following of the empty-headed," but whether we have "any appreciable power is a disputed question." Further, whilst we are "the most popular writer in the British yellow field," we have "no conscience, no heart, and little of the higher intellect." Indeed, we are a "wonderful salesman of the shoddiest wares"—price 2d.

More Compliments.

We have never spoken a single disrespectful word concerning the great Catholic Church, but this is the sort of thing we get in return, from the *Catholic Herald*: "We have the Northcliffe-cum-Havelock-Wilson-cum-Bottomley-cum all the set of corrupt and decadent forces of Unionism, Toryism, Jingoism, and Hunnish blustering, bullying, bellowing against the Germans with whom they have so much in common that it must be hard to say on which side is the balance of scoundrelism, blackguardism and brutality." We confess that if at any time we ever thought of "going over to Rome," this kind of thing would rather deter us.

The Gallant Dead.

The body of a mercantile seaman, from a torpedoed transport, was washed ashore at Broad Haven. A brother identified it by telephone, and hastened to the spot to arrange the funeral, full instructions being sent ahead. Yet, on arrival, he was grief-stricken to find the poor fellow buried, as "an unknown seaman," in a common coffin, without lining, and actually with his boots on! The story is a blot on South Wales.

Food for Cattle.

Here is food for reflection—and food for cattle. Of the latter variety were 1,000 tons, valued at £16,000, stored in a warehouse at Darlington. At Thirsk were another 3,000 tons of similar cake. The Darlington lot cost 3d. a ton for putting it in store, and £12 10s. a week for keeping it there. Farmers and other practical men said it was kept too long in store, but nobody listened. But it happened just as predicted; the stuff is now unfit for use, ruined by long storage. And that's that.

The Call from Heaven.

"Compelled by an inward impulse under God's direction to undertake some work for my country and King"—so the Rev. A. H. Ford, Vicar of Bagshot, expresses it in his parish magazine—he has "obtained work at the Ministry of Pensions in Westminster." Every little helps, no doubt, but as the help in this case could be as efficiently given by a discharged soldier, it hardly seems the sort of thing Heaven calls a Vicar from his happy home for. We would not for a moment assume he is getting a salary.

A Martyr.

This lad is only 21. In 1915 he was in France with the Royal Naval Division. He was wounded, went to hospital, and came out to see service on the Belgian coast. In 1916 his ship was torpedoed, and he was twelve hours in the water, with a smashed foot. Pneumonia set in; he got worse and is now undergoing sanatorium treatment in Essex, with a sentence of death in six months. Could he be got to another climate, such as South Africa, his days might be increased. As it is, he numbers them off—"another day gone from my six months!"

Wholesale Murder?

We learn that an extraordinary large number of deaths among British soldiers, prisoners in Germany, are being reported just now. In one case the German official Note stated that a boy died on August 1st, although the last two letters from him, saying he was in good health, were rubber-stamped "27.7.18." What is the meaning of this? And why aren't these poor fellows repatriated? Are the Huns deliberately doing to death as many as possible of our lads before the inevitable end? Can our Government do nothing?

The Free Prisoners.

A complaint by the Chief Constable of Notts, in reference to German prisoners wandering at large, elicited from the Retford War Agricultural Committee an astounding excuse. They explained that it was the farmers' duty to supply an escort back to camp for the Huns; if the farmers have no men to spare for the duty, they must do it themselves. Common sense suggests that the camp should supply a military guard, both coming and going. As it happens, and as we have often said, the Huns roam just where they please. How they must laugh!—while good men curse.

For Trinity House.

Among other most worthy pensioners in distress the old fellows under Trinity House demand attention. £40 a year for a man and wife, when he has been 50 years or so at sea, is not much, is it? Small wonder if such veterans say—"We would be better in the Workhouse, if it wasn't for the name!"

Waacs' Woes.

Up at Ripon, in the Quartermaster's Stores of the Infantry Command Depôt, the Waacs have been enjoying the princely emolument of 11s. 3d. weekly, to buy everything they need after the first issue of uniform. From that stupendous sum is now being deducted 1s. 6d. a week for washing expenses, a grievous impost. The Waacs will wax fat in the winter on 9s. 9d., out of which they are to pay for underclothes and boot repairs—and buy War Bonds. Scarcely encouraging to the girls, is it?

One of the Poets.

Despite the war, or perchance because of the war, the poets are still with us. Thus it is that one of them salutes us from distant Mesopot: "Cheerio, old Stick-in-the-Mud, still keeping well and hearty? Quite well? All right, just carry on, and put an end to Party. Just now you're offered many seats, but do not let them bag you; They know you know too much, you see, and so they try to gag you. What's that? You knew it long ago? I might have given you credit; So, if I must apologise, consider I have said it." Right ho!

Males and Females.

Government Departments print so many millions of circulars and leaflets that it is hard to get rid of them. So they dump them any and everywhere. In no other way can we account for the National Health Commission posting its leaflets, bearing numbers in hundreds, and dealing solely with soldiers and other men, to Secretaries of Lodges composed of women only, and registered as such. We have a bundle of "male" printed matter actually addressed to a "Female Branch," and this happens every week. It is wicked and wasteful.

Not to be Tolerated.

"Out of the Army—done with!" is a motto that must not rule, and shall not, while we have voice or pen to use against it. Therefore we protest in deep disapproval of the action of the Salvation Army at their King's Cross hostel. Two Australian soldiers, and a third one now discharged, asked for beds. The two were accommodated; the third, who produced his Discharge papers on requirement, was refused. Some munitioners were admitted; there were empty beds, so there was no excuse for an act that aroused natural indignation. Such things absolutely must cease.

Burns on the Beast.

It is not everywhere known out of Scotland, perhaps, that the Only Burns had also his ideas about the Hun over a century ago. He was writing to Dr. McGill, of Ayr. "Creation-disgracing scelerats," he said; "such as they, only God can mend and the Devil only can punish. In the all-comprehending way of Caligula I wish they had all but one neck. Oh, for a withering curse to blast the Germans and their machinations! Oh, for a poisonous tornado from the torrid zone to sweep the spreading crop of their villainous contrivance to the lowest Hell!" Failing which, it is desirable to leave 'em to Foch and Haig.

Street Cruelty to Horses.

"Constantly going on," as a City reader puts it, "is the abominable and cowardly practice of a very large number of boy-drivers hitting their half-starved, hard-worked horses 'below the belt.'" If members of the public will call the attention of the nearest policeman to it, much brutality of this kind can probably be stopped, though you can no more expect to get kindness out of a brute than a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Beery.

Many and varied are the mysteries about Government ale; the strangest of them all is undoubtedly what has happened at the Volunteer Inn, Poplar, as revealed by Mr. T. T. Price, the landlord of the same. "Drawing a customer a pint of ale last night," he relates, "to the surprise of the customer four £1 Treasury notes came floating to the top." The name of the brewers is not stated; but if they are now brewing beer of Treasury notes instead of water they must have a great surplus of floating capital.

The High Hand.

The holder of a £200-a-year-post under the Grimsby Corporation resigned; a sub-committee meeting accepted the resignation; and without apparently giving the smallest chance to a subordinate who had been Chief Assistant in the department for 18 years, recommended for appointment a Mr. Chapman—and the Public Lighting Committee confirmed the recommendation on the appeal of the Mayor that they should have confidence in him. If Grimsby ratepayers like this kind of thing, this is the kind of thing they will like.

On the Day of Discount.

The County Borough of Bury, in its graciousness, allows a small discount to ratepayers who dub up promptly. A soldier found by his Demand Note there would be 4s. remitted if he paid by Saturday, October 5th. On that day he arrived home from his unit, having been away on duty since July, and on that day he sent a cheque for the rates, deducting the 4s. It was returned by the collector—"Discount cannot on any consideration be allowed after the 5th." He "regretted" it, but regret does not assist to remove the injustice.

The Sergeant's Boots.

A sergeant of the South Africans, after fighting in three spheres of war, was discharged through wounds. He invested his whole capital, £500, in second-hand Army boots, for export to South Africa. All was going well, when suddenly the South African Government came out with an embargo on the importation of second-hand boots. So far, the South African Government has not relented, but we hope it may yet make an exception in favour of a man who has so well earned its consideration.

Woe in Wick.

"Dora" is ha'eing a fine time amang the grocers in Wick, the noo, and we are glad of it. She has been calling grocer after grocer to the seat of judgment for overcharging—so many that we have not tried to count them. In every case the sinner didn't know, or couldn't help it, or wasn't there at the time; in every case he left the presence of Sheriff Trotter and the Procurator-Fiscal with a heavier heart and a lighter pocket. "How," demands one of the condemned, "wad ye like tae be grocers in Wick?" We shouldna like tae be grocers in Wick at a'. They gie nae proper respect tae morals an' releegion.

More Compliments.

Our kindly contemporary, the *Jewish World*, says we always remind him of what one of the boys at Eton said of the Head Master: "Arnold's a beast—but he's a *just* beast." Just so.

A Pensioner's Problem.

Writing from Loughborough, an Old Age Pensioner of the gender feminine poses us with this:—"I am eighty-one and an Old Age Pensioner. This morning I have paid 2s. 6d. rent and 2s. 6d. for coal. Now what have I to live on?" The answer seems to be 2s. 6d. and the four winds of Heaven; but if Mr. Lloyd George or the Chancellor of the Exchequer can find a better one, perhaps he will kindly mention it.

Just Complaints.

The South Metropolitan Gas Company are not living up to their lights. Their girl lamplighters complain of a deduction of 2s. 6d. weekly from their wages on account of uniform, there being apparently no limit to the process, while if a girl leaves the service, she is expected to hand the clothes back to the Company. Another of the girls' grievances is that they have to hang about the streets in the cold, grey dawn because, for instance, the time for putting out the street lamps in Greenwich is an hour later than in the neighbouring borough of Lewisham. The South Metropolitan can do a lot better than this if they try hard enough.

Alien Music-makers.

The foreign musician, often of questionable origin, still flourishes, strong and fit, in many hotel and cinema orchestras. Our own musicians, as they return from the fighting they have shared in, should see to it that these gentry are cleared out to make way for them. The foreigner in Britain, if he has not fought for her, is not needed to make her music.

Pensioners or Prisoners?

What sort of control is there over Hun prisoners at Redmire Camp, Sheffield, if men can wander at will in the fields by night, robbing the farmers of sackfulls of potatoes? Three such men were caught the other night—two in the act, and one of them was shot in the legs by the farmer. Pity he didn't aim higher.

Honouring the Beasts.

And why do Hun prisoners who die continue to receive the honours of war—as in the case of Corpl. Richard Schmidt, whose body (covered by the German flag and floral tributes) was accompanied to St. Brelade's cemetery in Jersey by the firing party of the Royal Jersey (G) Battalion and buglers, followed by the German Prisoners' Choir (under escort, save the mark!), the deceased's friends, some three hundred prisoner kamerads and an escort of the guard? We want to know why the religious ceremony, conducted by a German theological student, and assisted by the German choir, was followed by the usual military honours, and what the firing party, some of whose comrades are in German hands, thought of it.

Who's to Blame?

Apropos of that rotten meat Hanwell way, a shunter of the L.N.W.Rly. has a revelation also. He avers that "The amount of rotten foodstuffs we place in the sidings is scandalous; on 20-21 Sept., 16 wagons of rotten beef; last week about a dozen wagons—I fancy these were full of rabbits." Unfortunately, the railway companies are not the only people on whose premises vast quantities of foodstuffs are going wrong. Everything has its uses, however. Of their ashes might be made the violets of their native land.

Chopping and Changing.

The National Service scheme has it humours, but unfortunately there is a serious side to them. In a Scottish shipbuilding yard are 50 National Service men from England. They include a commercial traveller, dentist, post office clerk, grocer, and others who have never before seen any ship-building. From the same district, lifelong shipyarders have been deported on National Service to various towns in England, also to do work of which they know nought. All men receive sustenance money, free rail, and holidays. Except as a means of wasting money and hindering production, there can be no reason for this mad game of chop and change.

Will You Have One?

Hurry up if you want to secure one of the 1,000 Turkey prizes offered in connection with our "Bullets" Competition.

Candid Communications.

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties and occasionally Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. Sir George Cave, Home Secretary.

DEAR SIR GEORGE,—I am glad to perceive in your declaration of a proposal to ask for further powers in regard to Germhuns resuming their former avocations in this country after the war, a sign of grace and a promise of excellent intention. It is unthinkable that the army of Germhun waiters, barbers, pork-butchers and so forth who have been doing their bit of murdering, violation and arson against us, should return to live on our tips, and cut our hair, because they can't cut our throats, and sell us sandwiches and sausage as if they had as much right to carry on in the old way as the born Briton. JOHN BULL.

To His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G.

DEAR DUKE,—If Lloyd George were getting busy in Limehouse instead of getting on with the war, you would have heard something about the proposal in your Bill to give royalties on oil to landlords. Because in the past we have been fools enough to give Dukes and other exalted persons millions in royalties for coal they never put underground and never got out, that is no reason why in the future we should be idiots enough to give them royalties on oil they never put there and to get out which they don't propose to risk their own money. The times have changed all that, my dear Duke. JOHN BULL.

To the Matron, Red Cross Hospital, Saltburn-by-the-Sea.

DEAR MADAM,—I should so much like to know why you refuse to allow the wounded men in your charge to visit the cinema. You have said "there are many reasons" for your fiat, but have not explained one of them. Local people who try to look after the boys are becoming discouraged through your action. As the cinema is the only entertainment in Saltburn, do not, I beg you, deprive your patients of it. Act like a lady—graciously; will you, please? JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Minister of Food.

DEAR MR. CLYNES,—I am told that cartloads of sprats are being sold every night at Topsham for manure. 'Od's bodikins, and marry come up, and go to, and tut, tut, sir! Exeter is but four miles away. All this fish could be sent there for human food with the certain prospect of a good market. 'Pon my word, the longer the war lasts the more one wenders what you do for a living. I don't mind laying odds that if you had agreed with the sprat trade to fix prices at two-a-penny, Topsham's sprats wouldn't go for manure. JOHN BULL.

To A. R. Duckering, Esq., J.P., Kirton-in-Lindsey.

DEAR SIR,—I am glad that you have completely refuted the suggestion of any unkindness towards the discharged soldier to whom I recently referred—Stanley Fox Kirk—in connection with the appointment of Executive Officer to the local Food Control Committee. You and I seem to have been the victims of a gross misrepresentation, a testimonial in his favour which you are said to have given turning out to be an impudent forgery. Unhappily, against such things it is practically impossible to guard oneself altogether, and it is fortunate that in the end the truth has come to light. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Father Francis Murphy, Glantane, Cork.

DEAR PRIEST,—In the course of a speech at Glantane, discussing the question of Irish Conscription, you had the coarse effrontery to say that the attitude of your political friends "had saved the country from devastation, bloodshed and murder, and even from nameless crimes that would in all probability be perpetrated by a brutal Scotch or English soldiery on the spotless daughters of Erin." Priest or no priest, the day may come when you will be sorry that this filthy thought was ever allowed to pass your lips. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Lawrie Craig, Vice-Chairman, N.F.D.D.S.S., Chiswick.

DEAR VICE,—Congratulations on having secured the first freehold property for the Federation—in the shape of a Memorial Institute for the convenience of ex-service men. This is better than most of the silly monument proposals of which one reads; but why on earth is the Government, by withholding the building Permit, delaying the opening? JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, M.P., Minister of National Service.

DEAR SIR AUCKLAND,—I am sick and tired of the wretched blunders of your officials in sending out "calling up" papers relating to men who have already given their lives in their country's service. Among the latest complaints is one from a widow at Kennington, who has just received from the National Service Office at Newington Causeway a "final notice" respecting her late husband, this being actually the fourth set of papers sent to her since the gallant fellow's death in action in May, 1917. Can you find no means of checking this tragic foolery? Surely the many deplorable incidents of like kind should have inculcated common-sense in your underlings. JOHN BULL.

To the Assistant Provost-Marshal, Liverpool.

DEAR "A. P. M."—Apropos of my recent letter to you, I learn that a full Inquiry has now been held into the circumstances of the riot at the Belmont Road Hospital, when there was a conflict between blacks and whites. I am told that while it is true you called the Tommies together and addressed them, you did not describe their conduct as shameful. I am delighted to hear it—the more so as I understand that, somewhat late upon the scene, when the position of things was, to say the least of it, ugly, you single-handed successfully dealt with the blacks, obviously at personal risk. JOHN BULL.

MORE ABOUT THE DEATH-TRAPS.

THE RAGING EPIDEMIC AND THE DEMAND FOR INFORMATION.

FOR the third time we warn the Government that their silence over the mysterious deaths of hundreds of sailors and soldiers in this country is causing the gravest disquietude. Already we have given particulars of what has happened at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, and at that other death-trap, the Crystal Palace. Yet so far no official statement has been made; nothing has been done to reassure anxious parents, and all the precaution taken at the Sydenham Glass House has been its closing for three weeks. That is not enough—it must be shut up for good. We cannot have our boys—five to eight thousand of them—exposed to the fatal risks of that draughty death-trap during the coming winter. So far, not a protesting voice has been raised within the House of Commons. What a commentary on its "representative" character!

We had hoped that our revelations in regard to Portsmouth Royal Naval Barracks would have prompted the authorities to make some public statement—yet while they are silent the mortality continues. Parents still write, giving details of the deaths of their own sons, applauding our action in letting in the light upon these many mysterious fatalities, and where they hint at the cause of death, suggesting either some enemy hand or the results of inoculation.

Here is a typical letter from Kilmarnock:—"Having read your article on the mysterious deaths at Haslar, I may say my son was one of them. He was admitted to the Hospital on September 11th, and died on the 21st. I was wired for to come and see him. And while there I heard a lot of talk about it, both from the stewards and patients. And they all had the same opinion—that there was dirty German work at the bottom of it. My son was Robert D. Woodburn, E.R.A., Artificer, H.M.S. *Cardiff*. He was 25, and is the third son I have lost in the war, so you will see that I have had my share of it." Let us quote another letter about "R. H. Garland, only 18 this month"—a lad in the Royal Marine Artillery, one of ten sons—two have also been killed in the war, one wounded. The boy joined up before he need have done. Within a fortnight of joining he died at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. His mother, who saw the body a few hours after death, says that had it not been for his red hair she would scarcely have recognised her son. She was convinced that the cause of death was *some virulent form of poisoning*. It would seem there have been many similar cases which are confined to young recruits, and if it can be shown that civilians are immune, it would certainly point to treachery.

"My oldest son, Jack," writes a sorrowing father from Hull, "was aged 18. He had never known a day's illness and had a splendid constitution. Within four weeks of going to Portsmouth he died with tragic suddenness from so-called pneumonia. Before his death, when he himself was in his usual perfect health, he wrote repeatedly that the lads were 'dying in hundreds.' Personally, I feel confident that pneumonia was not the real cause of his death. There is something wrong at the Portsmouth Naval Barracks, something that needs thoroughly investigating, and that without further delay. As a father who has lost his son by a mysterious death I ask: What about the inoculation? Will that bear a complete investigation? You are the one to whom hundreds of bereaved parents look to obtain the truth, and we know we shall not look in vain."

Added to the further distressing details of the death-trap at Portsmouth come letters applauding our action in revealing what has been going on at that other Naval Barracks, the Crystal Palace death-trap. Again we quote, because this is one of those serious matters deeply affecting the public where chapter and verse are necessary. Writing from Liscard a father says: "My eldest son, aged 18, a fine and strong lad, joined up at the Crystal Palace on October 2nd. We can prove he reported sick on October 3rd; we can also prove he was lying in a corridor and begged for them to bring him medical assistance. There he lay until October 8th, when he was removed to the Crescent War Hospital, West Croydon, in a dying condition. He passed away after intense suffering on October 12th, with septic pneumonia. The doctor at the hospital, who did all in his power to save my lad, said the boys were taken there too late."

Why, asks the correspondent whose letter we have just quoted, was a new recruit taken into this death-trap? It can be proved that sickness had been raging there for weeks, and that there was no proper accommodation for the sick. It is a grave scandal that young and precious lives should be thus wantonly risked and sacrificed. Our lads are ready to fight the enemy, and if needs be to fall fighting. They are also prepared to undergo all the hardship inseparable from real campaigning, but the stories which reach us of the condition of things at the Crystal Palace death-trap (including the kite balloon section, where men are still dying in their shelters in the grounds), clearly prove the need for a searching inquiry. But this much we demand—and that without any Inquiry, for by the evidence of death the Crystal Palace stands condemned—the Palace must not be re-opened. "I am pleased to inform you," writes an official, "that orders have been received from the Admiralty to close the Crystal Palace for three weeks. Meanwhile precautionary measures are being taken to combat the serious epidemic which has been raging lately." But what *is* the epidemic and what *are* the steps? Let the Government speak, and speak quickly.

ROBBERY ON THE SCALE.

THE WOMEN, THE BUTCHER, AND THE SUET.

More and more is the conviction borne upon us that there are a lot of people selling things over the counter who are risking all their chances of going to Heaven. In this category is a Walthamstow butcher. Like all such stories, this one is best told by the victim. "I asked for a quarter of a pound of suet," says she. "Having noticed the butcher left three one-ounce weights on, I watched him. Apparently noticing I was watching him, he withdrew the three one-ounce weights and substituted the quarter-pound one. He then dropped a piece of suet on the scale and knocked the scale down with his hand. Knowing I had been done in the weight, I immediately with a witness took the suet to a shop near by and had it weighed; it barely turned the scale at 3¼ ozs. with wrapper." The local Food Controller at first declined to meddle with the affair, and referred the woman to the Town Hall, where she was referred back again to the Food Control. The local "Food Controller"—presumably the Executive Officer—at length accompanied her to the butcher, who denied having served her with the suet, but "when asked by the Food Controller if he would face a witness he flatly refused. Finally the Food Controller suggested I should accept an apology, have a Permit, and accept 6d. for my fare, also another quarter of suet." Now this sort of compromise is most certainly not in the public interest. It must be obvious to any Executive Officer of a local Food Control that if it be worth while for a tradesman—what class of food he sells is no matter—to rob the public of fractions of weight on the scale, it is doubly worth while for the Food Control to protect them.

HIS LAST JOURNEY

SICK RAILWAYMAN'S LONELY END.

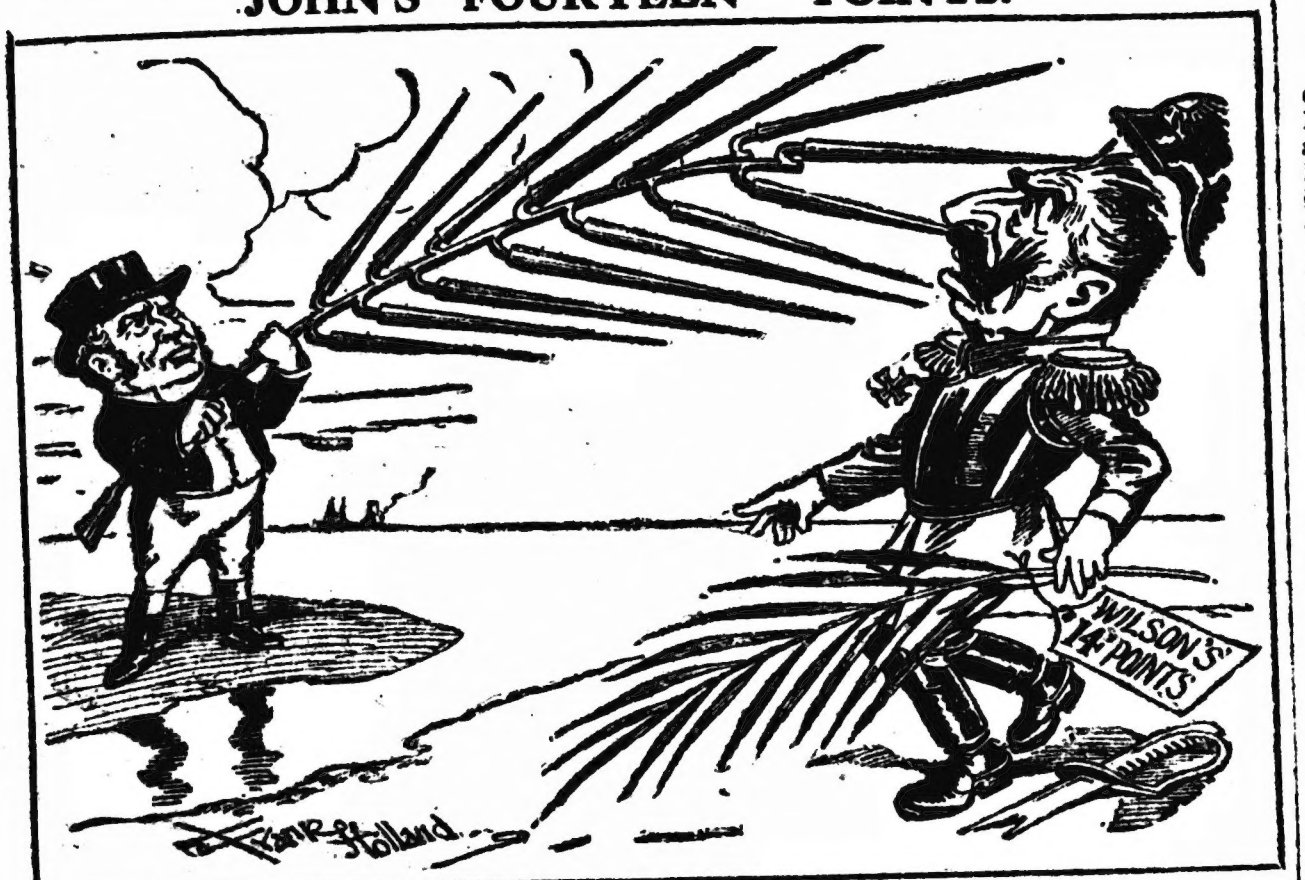
A peculiarly sad story has its origin at the Convalescent Home of the railwaymen, Bridge House, Dawlish. A man named Peters, of Stratford, after a long bout of bronchitis, was admitted for a stay. Becoming ill again, he was ordered by the doctor to return to his own home. Instead of departing with other patients on a Friday morning, he was allowed to leave alone, no notice of his journey being given to his wife. After poor Peters left Dawlish nothing was seen or heard of him until he was found, at 6.45 a.m. on Saturday morning, apparently in a fit on the doorstep of a barber at Seven Kings. The barber's wife, being a good woman, took him in, tended him, and tried to give him a cup of tea. He could not swallow it, and died without recovering consciousness. "Death from natural causes" was the verdict of the coroner's jury—a true verdict, perhaps, but one containing not all the truth. There seems to have been a sad lack of supervision at the Home at Dawlish. Peters should have left with a party—and the Matron expresses "surprise" that he did not do so—each patient having been asked if he was to be met at the other end, and, where necessary, letters written to assure this. That the party left without Peters is evidence of strange laxity. That he was subsequently permitted to travel alone was, considering his grievous state of health, one more course to be lamented, while the fact that his wife was not bidden to meet him on arrival was perhaps the worst feature of all. In the interests of other poor invalids, such looseness of procedure must not be tolerated at this Home for convalescent railwaymen.

POLICE PERSECUTION.

SCANDALOUS STRAINING OF PETROL LAW.

We know very little of Mrs. O'Dell, of the Old School House, Sutton Veny, near Warminster; but, on the facts before us, we see no just reason why she should be made the victim of police persecution. With the approval of the Military Authorities, the lady has been running a motor-car in a business way for the conveyance of passengers between Warminster Railway Station and the neighbouring camps, and although she has made every effort to comply with the police requirements, she has been served with repeated summonses under the Motor Spirit Restriction Order. For a long time the police had no luck whatever. To six charges Mrs. O'Dell had a complete answer, military officers of high standing being ready at all times to speak to the usefulness of her work and to the perfect propriety with which the business had been carried on. At this stage, the Bench should have intervened to protect the defendant from what was all too patently an organised attempt to ruin her business, but, unfortunately, they consented to the launching of a further summons, the gist of this final charge being that Mrs. O'Dell, who is far too keen on business for such frivolities, had taken an Army officer for a "joy ride" in her car. When the case came on for hearing at Warminster, the officer concerned had left to rejoin his regiment in India—and eagerly seizing this advantage, the police managed to persuade the Justices to accept their view of the facts. As a result, Mrs. O'Dell was fined £20 with £3 3s. costs. The conviction and sentence of the hard-working lady motorist may have been a triumph for the Warminster police, but it was a deplorable travesty of justice all the same.

JOHN'S FOURTEEN "POINTS."



"Wilson's fourteen points you've got, Bill;
Now—to vary the design—

Here's another little lot, Bill;
These are fourteen points of mine!"

OFFICIAL BRIGANDAGE.

GRAVE INDICTMENT OF WAR OFFICE METHODS.

For sheer callousness and indifference to every humane consideration, some Government Departments outrival the most stony-hearted of individuals. In one flagrant instance lately brought to our notice, the War Office is clearly at fault. In November, 1917, the Military Authorities for billeting purposes seized a boarding-house at Hendon, conducted by the wife of an Army officer, there being, of course, the usual implied undertaking to pay compensation for disturbance. The taking over of the establishment was most unfortunate for the lady, whose circumstances, through the ill-health of her husband, were by no means prosperous, and even if the War Office had acted with common fairness, a good deal of hardship would still have been caused. As a matter of fact, they have behaved abominably.

In the eleven months or more that have elapsed since the taking over of the house, they have paid not a penny of compensation, although the lady, of course, has had to keep up the rent of the premises, and to pay the rates and other expenses, while looking elsewhere for the income formerly derived from the boarding-house business. Yet the Military Authorities, apparently, are utterly indifferent, repeated applications to the War Office having produced no effect. Unhappily, the case is not one in which the dispossessed tenant can afford to wait indefinitely for redress. As a result of her treatment by the War Office, the unfortunate lady is in severe financial straits; for instance, at the present moment she is threatened with bankruptcy proceedings in respect of a debt of £90, and this at a time when on a moderate computation the Government are indebted to her to the extent of £1,000. Still, all the comfort she can glean is a suggestion that, having failed to obtain a settlement from the Local Valuer, she should submit her claim direct to the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission—one of the most dilatory and unsatisfactory bodies that ever afflicted an unhappy nation. Such scandals are really past all tolerance. It seems that even the rudiments of conscience are choked in the atmosphere of Whitehall.

COAL NOT WANTED.

PRODUCTIVE MINE CLOSED BY ORDER.

There is much dismay and some anger in Derby over the closing down, by order of the Coal Controller, of the Stanley Kilburn Colliery. In view of the shortage, this action is not easily understandable. The mine contains, at a reasonable and low estimate, 1,750,000 tons of coal. In consequence of a bad roof and floor and the presence of water, the Closing Order comes, and the result will be the loss of fully 40 per cent, of all those tons. If a small amount of plant and material were obtainable, the mine could be worked. At the present time the pit turns out 600 to 650 tons per week—32,000 tons per year. It would be possible, after a few weeks' work, to bring the output to 800 tons weekly. Given the plant required, in the course of a few months the yield could and would be increased to 2,000 tons a week. Quite plainly it is wanton stupidity to deny this supply of much-needed fuel to the country—to throw away a large and valuable output instead of supplying the plant by which it could be got.

That is the broad base of the affair as a matter of national concern. There is the personal point of injustice and cruelty to the miners, the majority of whom are ex-soldiers and old men who have never worked elsewhere. To cry for "More coal!" and to beg the men to get it, is to vent parrot cries when the opportunity to work is denied. Instructions have come from the Coal Controller that all men and boys are to receive notice to leave, the colliery is to be dismantled, and all the stock prepared for sale. As the colliery, working under hard conditions, is turning out about one ton per day to every person employed—a result accomplished in no other colliery in the neighbourhood—the act of compulsory closure assumes the aspect of a great national wrong. There are, we regret to say, many other collieries by no means so energetic in productiveness, and men are complaining of the few hours they are allowed to work. We recently quoted an outstanding instance at Neath, and we have similar reports from other quarters, including Nottingham and Wednesbury. The men are all right; sometimes the owners are not so; and now the Coal Controller himself has joined the slackers.

BLEEDING THE WIDOW.

A CHALLENGE TO THE BOARD OF CUSTOMS.

The case of Mrs. Cooper, a 70-year-old widow of Paddington, is not the only one of its kind. For a little while the old lady was paid a shilling a week more than she was entitled to as Old Age Pension. As everything else has gone up, she may have thought Old Age Pensions had gone up also—as they ought to have done. The first Pensions Officer, a man, came round and said nothing—whether he turned a kindly blind eye on the overpayment or didn't notice it, no matter. By-and-by another Pensions Officer came on the scene, a keen-eyed, keen-nosed lady who may have been qualifying for an O.B.E. She noticed the overpaid amount; the result being the rendering of an authoritative official demand to refund the £4 11s. surplus. As Mrs. Cooper is living on 9s. 6d. a week, has spent the extra shillings on war rations, and couldn't possibly raise £4 11s. unless she robbed a bank, she wishes us to advise her in the extremity. We advise her to tell the Board of Customs and Excise, who are demanding repayment, to go to Potsdam.

WATCH THAT WATCH COMPANY!

STOCKWELL PEOPLE AT THE SAME OLD GAME.

A soldier's wife began paying money to the Stockwell Watch Co. for a watch for hubby. When the poor soul had paid in 10s., her man was wounded, and, like a good woman, she spent her few surplus shillings on necessaries for him in hospital. At the same time she wrote explaining all this to the Stockwell Watch people, asking them to send a man's ring for the money paid, and promising to contract for a watch again when the trouble was over. To her repeated letters not one word of reply was returned. But they had the colossal impudence to send her a circular letter saying she had won a prize in a competition she had never entered! Of course it was an attempt at cajoling more money. As her husband says, "If they would cheat a wounded soldier's wife, they would cheat anyone." He asks our opinion of the "firm," but he really seems to have them so well weighed-up in his own mind that there is little need for us to add anything.

PEDANTRY *VERSUS* PATRIOTISM.

BROKEN SOLDIER FINED FOR TECHNICAL OFFENCE.

William James Lynch volunteered for the Army in 1915, at the age of 44. In April, 1916, he was discharged as totally unfit, owing to an injury to the spine. No longer able to continue at his old job, he was advised to seek lighter work. He received 8d. a day pension for 18 months, and then the money stopped. So he asked the National Service Ministry for permission to start a shop in a munition factory for the sale of non-alcoholic beer and other innocuous beverages. They refused the Permit without valid reason given. Unable to get any satisfaction otherwise, he opened the shop without permission, to bring matters to a head. He was summoned before the Sheriff's Court at Edinburgh, and the National Service people now state that they refused the Permit on grounds of economy in man power, as they understood that three men would be employed on the premises. They appear to have been misinformed, for the man states he intended to carry on with the help of a girl. You would think that now the objection had disappeared matters could be arranged and the Permit granted to this man who had been broken in his country's service. Not a bit of it! The Sheriff decided to treat him very gently—and fined him £5. We don't know whether the fine will be upheld on appeal. In any case the man himself must not pay it. Lynch should be allowed to open his shop. We invite the National Service people to say they are granting the Permit, and, if not, why not.

MY FOURTEEN P

(Dedicated, with Great Respect, to President W

No, Thanks, Mr. President—The Only Terms—All Abo

By THE EDITOR

MR. WILSON, as President of the great American Republic—which has come so grandly to the aid of the Allies in their struggle against the German foe—has formulated fourteen propositions, as a basis of Peace Settlement. So far, the Allies have neither formally accepted nor rejected these propositions—nor have they formulated any alternative ones of their own. I know that, in a careless moment, the Prime Minister swallowed the President and his Points whole—but he was addressing the American troops at the time! This is what he said, on July 5th:—"President Wilson's great deliverance of yesterday defines what we are fighting for. If the Kaiser and his advisers will accept to-morrow the conditions of your President, he can have peace not only with America, but also with Great Britain and France. But there are no indications of his intention to do so. We do not covet a yard of German soil, and we do not desire to dispossess her of any of her rightful possessions." And one or two of the minor Ministers have since adopted a similar line. On the other hand, Mr. Bonar Law, as Leader of the House of Commons, tells us that the Government is not bound by the Fourteen Points, and that it has not yet formulated its Terms. Indeed, there is so much mystery about the whole thing that I had better quote the official Parliamentary Report of certain questions and answers as recently as October 17th. Mr. Bonar Law, asked by Sir Hamar Greenwood whether the Allied Powers have ever discussed and accepted in an Allied Conference President Wilson's Fourteen Points as a basis of negotiation with Germany, said: "The answer is in the negative." Then, replying to Mr. Trevelyan, who asked whether the British Government had yet definitely informed the Government of Washington that they accepted President Wilson's speech of January 8th as expressing the policy on which they would be ready to conclude peace, Mr. Bonar Law said: "His Majesty's Government are in constant communication with the Government of the United States, but I do not think it desirable to make any further statement at present." After that came Mr. Lees Smith, who asked: "Could not the right hon. gentleman clear up a great deal of misapprehension by saying whether the President's Fourteen Points have been accepted by the Government?" Mr Bonar Law: "I shall always be glad to clear up misapprehension, but I am anxious not to add to it." Thus are we left entirely in the dark; and while ministers are in Paris dictating *Armistice* Terms with our Allies, let me as unofficial M.P. for Tommy and Jack and the Man in the Street, say what our *Peace* Terms should be—and, beginning with Saturday's big meeting at the London Albert Hall, I shall take steps to ascertain, by visits to all parts of the country, the view of the public upon the matter. My Points will not be couched in such stately and learned language as that adopted by the President, but they will possess the advantage of being "understanded of the People." And now let us have them.

1. NO TRUCK WITH THE KAISER.

That is my colloquial way of saying "No Peace with the Hohenzollerns." And to give effect to this policy, first the Kaiser must abdicate or be dethroned, and, secondly, he must be handed over to the Allies as hostage for the due fulfilment of whatever may be the Terms of Peace which they may dictate, but which we will not disclose till these two conditions have been complied with.

2. UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

And then there is one other condition precedent to any Peace discussion. Germany must lay down her arms. Evacuating conquered territory and withdrawing behind her own frontiers won't do at all. That would be like saying to a burglar caught red-handed: "Put down the swag and jump over the garden wall, and then we will consider what to do with you." No, Mr. Atkins will attend to that little matter of evacuation—and when Fritz crosses the frontier he will go with him.

3. GERMAN FLEET TO BE HANDED OVER.

That is my next stipulation. Military surrender is not enough. The German Navy, together with the mercantile marine, must be handed over to the Allies, who, after making good all tonnage destroyed by submarines, would proceed to apportion the surplus as they thought right for the future guardianship of the seas.

4. BRITISH SEA SUPREMACY.

On this subject of sea power there must be no mistake. Mr. Wilson wants "absolute freedom in navigation upon the seas outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants." What all this means I cannot, for the life of me, grasp. But I do know that Germany is moving Heaven and earth to fasten this point on the Allies. If she succeed, there would be no object in any longer maintaining the British Navy. Certainly no Parliament would ever vote money to maintain a Navy under "International" control. To concede this Point would mean the suicide of the British Empire.

5. FULL INDEMNITIES.

On this subject Mr. Wilson is silent. Surely he is not *still* under the impression that both sides are equally responsible for the war? And has he forgotten what Germany asked of France in 1871? Happily, so far, America has not suffered very great financial loss; but what of that ten thousand millions of British money? Are we to lose it, whilst Germany has those rich mineral fields? And what about the gold she has hoarded and stolen? Let her live on paper money for the next hundred years. It will do her good—and it will certainly serve her right. *It will also be the best guarantee for future peace.*

6. NO GERMAN COLONIES.

On this point there must be no misunderstanding. I confess that I do not quite grasp the meaning of Mr. Wilson's words. He says:—"A full, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all Colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the Government whose title is to be determined." For once in a way I prefer Mr. Balfour, who asks: "If these Colonies are returned, what security is there—what security can there be—that they will not be used by their original possessors as bases for piratical warfare? I have given long and anxious thought to this question. I have seen no answer to it except the answer which I am convinced all will give unanimously—which is, that under no circumstances is it consistent with the safety, with the security, with the unity of the British Empire, that the German colonies should be returned." Now, Mr. Balfour is Foreign Secretary, and although he was careful to make it clear that he spoke in his individual capacity, I assume that he will not retain his portfolio unless the view I have just quoted is accepted by the Government. But however that may be, "No German colonies" is one of *my* Fourteen Points.

7. PUNISHMENT OF CRIMINALS.

Here is another matter upon which the President is silent. Last week I gave a list of over a score of Hun war-criminals, of whom at least a dozen ought to hang. And I recalled the solemn declarations of the British Government (at the time of the murders of Nurse Cavell and Captain Fryatt) that those responsible for such crimes should be brought to justice "whoever they be and whatever their station." I made a note of that pledge at the time, and I mean to see it fulfilled.

8. FRANCE.

With the details of our Allies' Terms we, of course, are not concerned, but having stood side by side in war, we will not be parted in peace. Therefore my

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THE PEOPLE'S PEACE
A MANDATE TO THE POLITICIANS.
GREAT
DEMONSTRATION
at the
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SATURDAY, Nov. 2 at 3 p.m
Doors open at 2 p.m.
CHAIRMAN:
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY
Supported by
LORD BERESFORD, P.C., G.C.B., &c.
SIR E. MARSHALL HALL, K.C.
MR. HAVELOCK WILSON, M.P.
MR. BEN TILLETT, M.P.
MR. ARNOLD WHITE.
MRS. PANKHURST FOX.
ALL SEATS FREE.

IY FOURTEEN POINTS.

(Dedicated, with Great Respect, to President Wilson.)

President—The Only Terms—All About the Albert Hall Meeting.

By THE EDITOR

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MRS. DACRE FOX.
ALL SEATS FREE.

Point as regards France is simply this—we will not sheathe our sword till all *her* just demands are conceded.

9. ITALY.

The same principle applies. Italy has too long suffered from the presence of the Stranger within her gates—and in whatever restoration of her legitimate territory she may stipulate for, we must back her up.

10. BELGIUM.

Here we are entitled to a strong voice. We have for many years been under solemn Treaty obligations to protect this gallant little nation; and I am not sure that before the war we fully realised that responsibility. When in 1912 I warned the Government that in the event of war Germany would "take a short cut through Belgium," I was ridiculed—just as I shall be now if I predict that in certain contingencies she will do the same in Holland. But let that pass. Belgium has suffered martyrdom, and through it all she has remained steadfast and faithful to the Allies. Belgium must be restored and compensated to the last farthing; and she must be made safe from further danger for evermore.

11. TURKEY.

This effete and corrupt old country must be kicked out of Europe; Constantinople must be held at the disposal of the Allies; and stern reparation must be demanded for the massacre of the Armenians.

12. RUSSIA.

An International Commission must be set up to restore order in this country and to look after its people till they regain their reason. After that, we can consider what is the best form of government for her during the period of her nascent growth and her entry into the Comity of Nations.

13. POLAND.

The three Polands must be liberated from alien control and united into one kingdom, with such autonomy and such safeguards as the Allies may determine.

14. THE BALKANS.

This "cock-pit of Europe" must be taken vigorously in hand; and in the readjustment must be borne in mind the treachery of Bulgaria—with its cruel and cynical betrayal of its own deliverers—the sacrifices of Serbia, Roumania and Montenegro, whilst Greece must be safeguarded for all time against royal trickery and treachery.

Well, there are *my* Fourteen Points. I respectfully commend them to the consideration of Mr. Wilson.

No, Thank You, Mr. President!

And I do so with more confidence because I note with much satisfaction that his back is gradually stiffening. His latest Note is a great improvement upon its predecessors. He openly recognises, at last, the necessity for "plain" words. I wish he had done so from the first. But still there is room for improvement. Why talk of "the King of Prussia"? People will think he is somebody in the background, of whom they have never heard before! And he still has an alternative to Surrender—which should be the indispensable preliminary to Peace parleys—in the shape of a specially manufactured German Democracy! The Allies really must not fall into that trap. Nor must they, for one moment, authorise the President to say that they "are disposed to effect peace upon the terms and principles indicated"—that is to say, indicated in his own Fourteen Points. It is unfortunate and regrettable that Mr. Lloyd George prematurely gave these Points his blessing. They won't do at all. Besides, *who authorised Mr. Wilson to formulate them?* They were simply the academic expression of his own views—formed in the detachment of his study, thousands of miles from the scenes and realities of the war. As a basis of an Armistice—*subject to Surrender*—if you will; but as a synopsis of our Terms of Peace—no, thank you, Mr. President! Let each of the Allies state its own terms, and then there will be no objection to these all being collated and embodied in one grand Note—and the bearer of it should be told to wait for a reply. Really, really, we are at war, and with the most fiendish and devilish foe on earth. In sporting parlance, "we've got him beat." All that is wanted now is the knock-out blow—of which the Prime Minister *used* to speak. He is getting that blow now, and it isn't usual, with a fighter on his back, to administer restoratives whilst he is being counted out. In any case, even if he does come round we'll disqualify him for foul fighting. Thus the victory is ours—and to the victors, the spoils. But the spoils, in this instance, are the Peace of the World—and the only way to ensure that is to make it impossible for any nation ever again to break it. "Peace with Honour" was the old cry—I am old enough to remember "Dizzy" uttering it; "Peace with Permanence" must be the new.

To the Albert Hall!

Now for London's great demonstration on Saturday afternoon. The meeting, as already announced, is to be in the famous Albert Hall, and is to commence at 3 o'clock. The doors will be opened at 2, and the whole of the seats in the body of the hall, and in the galleries, will be absolutely free. There will be no priority of any kind in connection with them. The only ticket seats will be those in the boxes, which, as is generally well-known, are private property. So far as any of such seats have come into my possession they have been impartially allocated amongst applicants—but that is all I have been able to do. The huge orchestra will be occupied entirely by wounded soldiers, who, by special permission of the Authorities, will be fetched from and taken back to their various hospitals. Of course, Dr. Balfour will preside at the organ, and it is hoped that there will be various other musical items to kill the time pending the commencement of the proceedings. As already announced, I shall take the Chair, and amongst the speakers will be the veteran Lord "Charley" Beresford, who is assured of an ovation; the brilliant and ever popular Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., whose wonderful speech on the occasion of my last meeting at this Hall is still remembered; Mr. Arnold White, one of our greatest authorities on naval questions, and famous as "Vanoc" of the *Referee*; Mr. Ben Tillett, M.P., most fearless and independent of Labour leaders; Mrs. Dacre Fox, who has done such magnificent work in connection with the internment of enemy aliens; and last, but certainly not least, the new Member for South Shields—Mr. Havelock Wilson—who, though broken and bent with illness, retains all his mental vigour, and will come fresh from his Election triumph. If, as is not improbable, overflow meetings have to be held, we shall all do our best to come out and address them. I have been strongly urged to head a deputation to Buckingham Palace and to Downing Street, but I have not much faith in these theatrical displays. I shall take good care, however, to see that the Resolution passed by the meeting is duly conveyed to both His Majesty and his Ministers; and it will be in these terms:—

> That this great open meeting of London citizens affirm its determination that there shall be no Peace negotiations with either the Kaiser or his present Government, and that the Unconditional Surrender of the enemy shall be the first condition of any Peace discussion; and it further re-affirms the confidence of the British public in the ability of Marshal Foch, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig and General Pershing, Admiral Beatty and Admiral Sims, speedily to bring the enemy to his knees; and, finally, it records its unabated loyalty to the King and its desire to support, in every way, His Majesty's Government—as long as it acts on the principles above enunciated—in bringing the war to an early and victorious end.

Now then. To the Albert Hall!

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

AN OLD-AGE PENSIONER.

Come right in, dad. . . . *That's* right! A bit tottery, ain't you? . . . *So would I be if I was yore age?* Well, wot might yore age be, now, if I'm allowed to arsk? . . . Wot—*seventy-five?* Wot—git away! You've lorst count. You mustn't mind me. I ain't given to flattery, but you looks ninety, if you looks a day. . . . *You didn't look sixty-five years ago?* Then you've aged wunnerful the larst five years. Bin goin' the pace, I s'pose. Some of you old 'uns is rare terrers, I know. . . . Eh? Wot's thet? *Starvation?* Nonsense! Starvation?—w'en a wore's on, an' we're spendin' anythink from seven to ten million pounds per day! Per day, minjer. Don't tork to me about starvation, with thet amount o' money floatin' about the country. You must be gittin' a bit doddery, father. Thet's wot it is. Any'ow, wot do you want? . . . *'Air cut?* Right-o. Set 'ere. My word, yore boots ain't arf well-ventilated, ain't they? Wot's the matter—'ot feet? . . . Eh? *Carn't afford to get 'em mended?* Wot *are* you torkin' about? Even if you was in low water, there's plenty o' funds, ain't there? There's the Prince o' Wales's, to begin with, ain't there? Then there's dozens of others. W'y, money's floatin' about the country like a flood. 'Ow is it none of it hasn't come yore way? . . . Oh, *you're jest an old age pensioner, and you've on'y 'ad a 'arf-crown rise since the wore broke out.* Jew mean to tell me orl you gits is seven-an'-sixpence a week? Then I'm not surprised at you lookin' old fur yore age. I'm astonished to find you alive at all! 'Ow do you manage to 'ang on? Wot kin you git to eat with seven-an'-six arfter you've paid yore rent?—I s'pose you *'ave* rent to pay? . . . *Jest bread and a drop o' milk?* Well, the winter's comin' on—wot about firin'? . . . You *'as to depend on the charity o' the people wot you lodges with?* 'Ard cheese. It ain't right. I s'pose you've bin a steady workin' man in yore young days? . . . *Never 'ad nuthink against you?* Think o' thet, now! You've bin a good British citizen in the parst, and now you're pritty near left to starve. Well, well! There's somethink wrong somewheres, dad. Did you manage to make both ends meet on yore five-bob-a-week before the wore? . . . Oh, *it was a struggle even then,* was it? Then 'ow on earth kin you carry on now, w'en everythink is at least twice as dear as wot it was? . . . *Thet's w'y you'll be glad w'en you're dead?* 'Ere, don't tork like thet! Shorely there's something can be done for you. Munition makers are earning their quids a week and gittin' a wore bonus every time they arsk for it. Shorely there's no need to leave a pore ole bloke like you, wot's done 'is bit for the country in the parst, on the rocks! W'y don't they increase yore pension? If it *did* cost the country a bit more it wouldn't matter. Germany's gotter pay fur orl this. An' she kin afford to, if we go the right way about it. Well, father, I've give you a good trim, wot oughter larst you a month at least. . . . *'Ow much is it?* Thet's orl right. 'Ave thet with me. And any time you wants anythink o' the same sort done, jest come to me. Wish I could do more—thet's orl. But bizniss ain't too brisk, dad, so you must take the will for the deed. Good day, father. 'Ere, mind thet step! . . . Pore ole soul! Rough luck on a decent Englishman, dam'd if it ain't. . . . Makes me feel quite angry.

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"Liverpool Echo":—
"German Government denies her Army has ever destroyed lifeboats with passengers."

"Chums":—
"When the mysterious inhabitant of the island opened his eyes again he put both up to his face and gave an incoherent cry."

"Shields Daily Gazette":—
"Vice-Admiral Keyes reports: A Division of Destroyers arrived at Ostend . . . and proceeded into harbour in a whaler and landed about 10.30."

"Daily News":—
"Ferdinand in his tricky way tried to hunt with the hare and run with the hounds."

"Portsmouth Evening News":—
"In Belgium our Allies have been increasing their victory every day since yesterday."

Queen's Theatre (Manchester) Programme:—
"Early Doors 6.45. Ordinary Doors 6.15."

"Sheffield Daily Independent" (advertisement):
"For sale. Horse suitable for beef purposes."

"The Boxing Sailor" (Boy's Friend Library):—
"Mrs. Crawley, looking around her with tears in her ears." . . .

"Wesleyan Church Magazine":—
"Miss Luttrell rang the bell, and a laden tray entered."

"Scarborough Mercury":—
"Profiteering in Brambles —— was fined 5s. and costs for selling blackberries at the rate of 1s. 6d. a pound, the fixed price being 4s."

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"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheeseparing, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

For the Army Council:—The R. M. E.s at Bedenham Camp, Hants, are in a condition of mind that does not commend itself to us. Possibly a few brass-hats from the War Office will be sent down to inquire; otherwise, we may have something to say.

Not the Old Style:—Some of the officers of the Grenadiers at Caterham, hearing indirectly that grievances had been sent to JOHN BULL, have "got the wind up," but the N.C.O.s are taking matters in a different spirit. Determined to have their own back, they are "chasing" the men. We hope that Carlton House Terrace will see that justice is done.

Only "Common Tommies":—After Church Parade, which is such a solace to the Tommy, the simple "common soldiers" who are safeguarding Scarborough and its superior population are not allowed to walk on the promenade, which is given up to the civilians whose lives are being protected!

Prussian Brutality:—A man of the Royal Field Artillery at Ripon, who was on stable fatigue, was found wearing trousers without puttees and was awarded 56 days' No. 1 Field Punishment, all his pay being stopped during that time. As a matter of fact, the man had committed no crime, and we should like Viscount Milner to look into the matter and do the right thing.

Something Done:—Immediately on the appearance of our paragraph regarding Flixton Park Camp—principally apropos of lack of tent-boards—there was great activity at the railway station, several wagons being busily engaged carting the boards to the Camp. We are glad to have been of help. The men of the small boats at Queenstown Base also thank us for our inquiry as to "where the fruit and vegetables offered by civilians go." These little luxuries are now distributed according to the wish of the donors. By the way, will Mr. McWilliam Denny, Secretary of the Committee at Dumbarton, ascertain whether the vegetables sent for the fleet of minesweepers are rotting in sheds? The men can do with them.

Profiteering:—Troops were taken out to Russia on the s.s. *City of Cairo*. We have a numerously signed letter from the soldier boys grumbling at the exorbitant prices charged in the canteen, the men declaring that they were simply robbed. What have the owners of the ship to say?

Amazing:—We hear from a battery in England that the Brigade Postman was brought before the C. O. and found guilty of stealing four registered letters containing money. He got 28 days C.B. Another man in the same battery was awarded stoppage of two days' pay, four days' Royal Warrant, and 28 days C.B. for taking French leave to attend his sister's funeral, permission to do so having been refused. Let justice be done though the heavens fall!

For Investigation, Please:—Private George Larby has died, and we call for an Inquiry into the circumstances of his death. His comrades inform us that he became seriously ill on October 15th, and was left in his hut at Bandon without medical attention for four days. He was then transferred to the camp hospital, and afterwards to the Connaught Isolation Hospital at Aldershot, where he died. During the four miserable days spent in his hut, Larby was attended by his comrades. There does not seem to be any room for a plea of ignorance on the part of the man's Platoon Officer or N.C.O.s., as the reason for his absence from parades must have been known. We repeat that we call for an Inquiry.

"JACK."

A Hint:—We would advise the Commander of H.M.S. *Royal Scot* to assemble his officers and ask for complaints. They are numerous and varied. Is it right that the Mess should be run by the C. O. and 1st Lieutenant? If so, to whom should complaints be made?

Very Unfair:—The men of the Small Craft Base on Stornoway complain that they are not given all-night leave when they come into harbour, and sometimes they are not allowed ashore at all, although their wives live there. Other men in "foreign" ships get the concession, and we would suggest to the officer in charge of the Base that he might think matters over.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of discharged sailors' and soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or official information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

One More for Us:—We recently commented on the fact that the Badger tractor men released for agricultural purposes were given a small increase of pay, but had the allowance for acreage cut down—an Irishman's rise. We are glad to have an assurance from the boys that the old pay for acreage has been restored, and thanking JOHN BULL for securing this measure of justice.

How it is Done:—A Fuel Overseer, Mr. F. H. Harpur, was appointed at Maesteg in Wales, and ex-soldiers were counted out. Mr. Harpur offered to do the only thing open to him by tendering his resignation, but the Council decided by a large majority not to accept it. When the men come home and exercise their votes, they will kick out the whole blessed lot of these Councillors.

Another from Wales:—Mr. Lloyd George is by upbringing a Welshman and a good 'un—but other Welshmen appear to be running a merry riot and ignoring our discharged soldiers. The Pembroke Town Council wanted a Fuel Overseer, and among the applicants was Mr. H. L. G. Smith, who had fought overseas for three years and is now maimed. The job was given to a brewer's manager.

"Got the Wind Up":—We recently asked Mr. Hodge to consider the case of the Office Keeper who made the Silver Badgers' lives a misery—the said official never having been in the Army. The result is that an office memorandum has been issued deprecating "Criticisms of the Policy and Work of the Ministry made by its Employees through unofficial channels, *e.g.*, the Press"! In the meantime the subject of criticism has got the wind up, and has drawn up a testimonial to himself, which he has asked the employees to sign! Those who refuse will, of course, be in an awkward position.

A Doubtful Appointment:—It does not follow that because a man has been a member of the Perth Town Council and of the Perth City Tribunal he is the best possible candidate for the position of Janitor to the Perthshire Natural Science Society Museum. Indeed, we are sorry that when this nice little appointment fell vacant more consideration was not given to the claims of the discharged soldiers who were in the running. Of course, if Mr. Councillor Whyte's qualifications were so dazzling as to outshine all the rest, there is no more to be said.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

(Registered under the Act of 1916 as "The John Bull War Sufferers' Fund.")

This fund affords immediate relief to the dependents of soldiers and sailors stranded for want of money. Every farthing subscribed goes to some deserving person—we gladly defray all expenses.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Arrears of Rent:—A soldier's wife, who has been ill for two months, was very much worried through being pressed for unpaid rent during her incapacity. She feared she and her little ones would be turned out of the house, but we promptly allayed her anxiety in that direction.

A Hint:—Many sufferers will have their wants immediately attended to, if they apply in time to the Local Branches of the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association or the Secretaries of the War Pensions Committee, whose names and addresses may be obtained at the Post Offices. Should their applications be refused, we shall be only too pleased to consider their claims to a grant from our Fund.

A Last Resource:—A soldier's widow in wretched health has a delicate child in need of clothing and extra nourishment. The mother herself was seriously ill, and wrote us as a last resource.

Blinded in Africa:—An old soldier who lost his sight in the South African War is ill and in distress, his pension not being sufficient to support his family.

Poor Widow's Sad Predicament:—The widow of a soldier while waiting for her pension found herself extremely hard up, being ill and unable to go to work. She has an allowance of £1 6s. for herself and eight children, including a recently-born babe.

A Crippled Child:—The pitiable circumstances of another widow were laid before us, she also having lost her son in the war. She has only his pension with which to keep a crippled child and herself. Owing to chronic rheumatism, she is unable to work, much though she would like to do so.

Other Cases Helped.

A discharged soldier with small pension, in bad health and unfit for work.

A soldier's wife in failing health unable to pay her Poor Rate, for which she was brought to Court.

A man on leave to see his dying daughter, not in credit with his regiment.

A soldier whose wife was killed by a motor lorry and he was not in a position to bury her.

A soldier's delicate wife ordered special food. Her allowance reduced and her husband in debt with his unit.

A soldier's widow in hospital, her pension being insufficient for her children's present needs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

S. W., 6d.; R. W., 1s.; "Mary" (Bournemouth), 10s.; "Chips" (B.E.F.), 5s.; W. S. B. (Leicester), £1; W. H. (E. Ham), 1s.; J. N. C. (Yatesbury), 4s.; Pte. M. G. (B.E.F.), 10s.; "In Memory, S. M. S.," 2s.; A. F. (Glam.), 2s. 6d.; M. E. T. (Amersham), 3s.; "Soldier's Wife and Children," 2s. 6d.; "Hizano," 10s.; R. T., 6d.; Ship's Company, H.M.S. *Aquarius*, £5; G. S. (Kingston), 3s.; J. McA., 6d.; E. B. S. (Manchester), 10s.; E. H. J. (Highgate), 2s. 6d.; E. M., 2s. 6d.; "Justice-loving Tommy," 2s. 6d.; A. B. (Sheffield), 15s.; "An English Girl," 6d.; A. C. G., £1 1s.; Mrs. F. H. (Forest Gate), 6d.; B. R., 1s.; "Dicid," 5s.; "T. J. M., Remo," 2s. 11d.; J. M. (Belfast), 5s.; Mrs. M. S., 6d.; W. J. M., 3s. 6d.; Ship's Company, H.M.T. *Indian Empire*, £1; "Fisherrow," 1s.; "Blue Boy," 6d.; Mrs. E. B. (Portsmouth), 5s.; "Orkneyman," 10s.; B. E. R., 3s.; Anon (E. Sutton), 2s.; S. P. (Belper), 1s.; "Merchant Seaman," 10s.; "No. 308," 2s. 6d.; D. H. (Burnley), 1s.; W. R. (Bristol), 10s.; B. K. K., (Woodhall Spa), 10s.; Mrs. E. C. B. (Ryde), 1s.; "Sister of Five Brave Boys and Daughter of a Mariner," 10s.; "Johnnie," 2s. 6d.; G. E., 9d.; "A Punter," 5s.; C. W. (Streatham), 10s.; In Mem., S. M. S.," 2s.; "In Memory, M. A. P.," 1s.; J. E. G., Liverpool), 2s.; W. Y. (Moffat), £5; C. L. B. (Edinburgh), 5s.; G. C. R., 2s. 3d.; "Bert" (Walworth), 2s.; "Air Raid" (Middlesb., 2s.; Mrs. P. (Devonport), 2s. 6d.; W. A. E., 1s.; "Contribution from Mine Money, H.M.S. *Waverley* 932," (per F. B. P.), £1 5s.; Mrs. M. E. W., 2s. 6d.; V. E. C., (Croydon), £1; "Traveller," 5s.; "Athertonian: In Memory of Rover," 1s.; A. E. de L. (Streatham), £1; "The John Ruskin Band of Mercy" (Sheffield), 10s.; T. C. S. (Edinburgh), 15s.; W. N. S. (Brechin), 2s. 6d.; "Kathleen," 4s.; "Well Wisher," 2s.; "A Yorksbireman," 5s.; G. C. M., 1s.; L. W. (Leytonstone), 7s. 6d.; "Rae," 10s.; Q. C. (Ireland), 6s. 10d.; "Kat's Eye," 3s.; E. W. K. (Devizes), 5s.; J. H. (Middlesbro'), 2s. 6d.; "A Friend" (Preston), 5s. 6d.; A. B., 6d.; "Ajax," 7½d.; J. B. (Cleethorpes), 5s.; Mrs. R. (Fulham), 1s.; "Taxi Driver 5273," 1s.; N. M. (Scarborough), 1s.; W. A. W., 2s. 6d.; "Simply Anywhere," £3 1s.; "A Bristol Reader," 6s.; Mrs. S. (Stockport), 2s. 6d.; I. E. B., 1s. 6d.; W. A. W., 2s. 6d.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 92, Long Acre, W.C. 2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *inquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other inquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

J. A. B. (Battersea).—"Don't worry, my boy, the Sammies will be in Berlin by Xmas." Right-o, old lad; but do you think there is any chance of a Tommy or two creeping in on the quiet?

"OUR FAMILY" (Tunbridge Wells).—"Don't let the devilish Hun have peace as long as he can breathe." Quite so. The Clown Prince thinks war is "great fun." Let's at least agree with him that it's all a choke.

H. H. S. (Luton).—A list of humbugs not to be re-elected to Parliament? For this Rogues' Gallery keep your eye on our columns.

"A DISCIPLE."—"Trusting you will be spared for many years to come to administer the physic to the down-hearted." Thanks. Nice pleasant sort of person you seem.

"OROMY" (Coventry).—"The only good German is a dead one." And *he* stinks.

C. A. B. (Bath).—We, too, protest against the use of the expression "wastage of war" as applied to our heroic dead. To die in a great cause is not to waste one's life, but rather to fulfil it most nobly.

A. B. (Renton).—"Bottomley, don't be a damned fool." Certainly not. We have no desire to enter into competition with anyone.

12957 (Late 31st Brigade).—"Dear John . . . Hold them to the last! Carry on! Beware!" Ay, ay, sir!

"ALEX" (New Stevenston).—"We want a soldier's and people's peace, not that of a jelly-fish Govt." What beautiful sky-blue paper you *do* write on!

"BOOKWORM."—The Huns breed true. They were bestial savages centuries ago, as the chroniclers tell us, and bestial savages they remain.

EX-CPL. LANCS. FUSILIERS (Huddersfield).—We do not know whether Philip Snowden and Ramsay Macdonald have each lost a son in the war, but we can tell you what, by their unpatriotic attitude, they *have* lost (if they ever possessed it)—the respect of the general public.

J. A. S. (Saffron Walden).—"Stand firm, JOHN BULL!" You bet. Wish we could stand you a drink also.

"WELL-WISHER" (Tooting).—We adhere to our view that Special Constables should receive payment, and to find that you agree with us is a rapturous delight.

"READER" (Midlothian).—Your little anecdote just a wee bit full-flavoured. Keep it for the Bible Class.

"A REPRESENTATIVE TOMMY" (Yorkshire).—Nonsense! *You* are no "representative Tommy," or you would not skulk behind a screen of anonymity to make your puerile attack upon us.

"AMOS ANTONIO ARTEMUS ARGLES" (Birmingham).—Your letter is evidently the product of an irritable and impotent temper. You do not like our putting up as a righter of wrongs. We do not like your name. Call quits.

O. J. (East Ham).—"Herewith I send you a few lines of poetry, which my young lady tells me is as good as Tennyson ever wrote." Well might they say that love is blind.

"THREE LAND GIRLS" (East Preston).—Guess you were not admitted to the public dance at Littlehampton in your very taking uniform because the civilian ladies there knew they wouldn't stand an earthly with the boys.

MRS. M. A. (Birmingham). — What! Expect a reward from the Ministry of Munitions for recovering three cwt. of brass fuses which fell off a trolley into the road? You'll want your dinner without a coupon next.

J. C. (Erith), on a recent rainy Sunday in Southend, found there were no places of amusement to go to as "the Mayor objects." Perhaps his Worship believes everybody should go to church.

"A CONSTANT READER."—A firm offered a bassinette to the mother of a baby born last September, whose father was a prisoner of war. One candidate declared her husband had been prisoner of war over 3 years. Next, please!

M. G. (Southsea).—"Well, I'm blowed if I know where I am!" When you got to that line in your poem you were on the bulls-eye of truth.

"A WORKER" (E.C.4).—The currants you send, taken from a scone bought in Shoo Lane, look tough enough for shoe nails. But there are no currants at all in the scones *we* get.

"A WOMAN IN KHAKI."—"I read your paper fairly regularly." Make it quite regularly, and so perfect at least one good habit.

SGT. J. C. E. (Epsom).—You are rather stretching it for Party purposes, we fear, when you suggest that the Assistant Postmaster's advertisement for an "unmarried" chauffeur "represents the policy of the Government." There is such a thing as sweet reasonableness.

"A WORKER" (Nelson).—Who on earth wants "a genuine fat reducer" in these lean times? Are you doing it on bacon grease, or do you keep rabbits?

MRS. G. M. (Islington).—Thanks for writing "in defence of the railwaymen who did not strike." Perhaps it was you who put all the nice things in the papers about them.

P. B. (Norfolk Regiment).—Thanks for your sweet letter. Do you really love us, or do we owe you anything?

PRIVATE D. M. (B.E.F., France).—"Thus Peace will be proclaimed on Saturday, the 19th of October, 1918." And behold, it was not so!

W. L. B. (Leytonstone).—If the Commercial Gas Co. discharged you son on learning he had heart disease, which had never interfered with his work, that Company is more Commercial than Christianly charitable.

"ARGUFIER" (Poplar, E.).—"Can you tell me when the Prince of Wales' Fund was first inaugurated for sake of argument." But it was not inaugurated for the sake of argument.

C. R. (Westcliff).—"I simply scream out to nobody at your funny answers." That is nothing. You should hear the hilarious yells of the compositors when they are putting them into type.

F. D. (North Finchley).—Your lines are a bit too much "out of the ordinary" for us, thank you.

W. H. W. (Arnold).—"A suggestion to prevent war." Wait till we've done with suggestions for winning it.

"GLADYS" (Cottingham).—But who said "Paddy is flooding our meat markets"? None of the flood has come our way.

G. W. (Birmingham).—Our detractors are chiefly puny Peckaniffs, pestiferous pacifists, and pernicious profiteers.

"AGED 16" (Haslemere). — "Dear Horatio, Please excuse me taking the liberty in addressing you so familiarly." Ask your mother to get the strap and apply it familiarly to the never-mind of a saucy boy.

MRS. E. P. (Bridgwater).—"I am only a poor woman, lost my only son in the Jutland battle; many dear women have lost more. You have helped to cheer us all up week after week." *That's* the kind of message that keeps us going.

J. F. (Islington).—"The British Government particularly wanted the *Leinster* sunk, so as to gee up recruiting in Ireland." You are the walking carcase who, signing yourself "J. S.," libelled the Waacs, weeks ago. We told you then what we thought of you. Opinion unchanged, except for the worse.

PTE. W. D. (Worcesters).—From our "Letter Bag," you judge we are "averse to verses." Not at all. We are only averse from verse that is worse. Yours are not so bad; still, not quite good enough.

A. G. K. (Conway).—We cheerfully subscribe to the sentiment that "no German should be left alive on God's earth," but, alas! there will be too many. We cannot kill vermin with our mouth.

W. K. W. (Sunderland).—You appear to be unduly agitated by our Australian correspondent's recent inquiry for "a decent religion." One of the wisest things Tennyson ever said was: "There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in all the creeds."

"CONSTANT READER" (Ilford).—War-time postwomen have acquitted themselves well in their arduous task. The dear girls were always fond of the game of postman's knock.

E. G. E. (Royal Marines).—If, as you say, the stranded soldier-boy was turned out of the railway station to sleep by the roadside, it was a thundering shame.

T. E. T. (Manchester).—You suspect "not the hidden hand, but the hidden ass." Let's leave it at that, then, without guessing whom you are trying to be rude to.

PTE. MRS. C. (Larkhill).—To grant you special leave to visit your wounded husband in hospital and then dock your pay was nastily mean on the part of the Queen's Own Waacs.

C. W. H. (Westminster, S.W.1).—Agreed that the Midland Institute of Mining, etc., Engineers, Leeds, lacked discretion in selecting old German miners' songs to be sung at the General Meeting on 17th October. Moreover, we have never read much worse doggerel.

E. K. (Hammersmith).—The best cure for blushing is to get married.

H. E. W. (Crayford).—"Be kind enough to forward me the exact populations of the United States of America and Germany." Even if we had the transport facilities, the populations referred to might object to being violently transferred to Crayford.

"DISCHARGED OFFICER" ("Rejoined and Serving Again," Dublin) wants us to go to Ireland and rouse up the "young and healthy men still leading the ordinary civilian life." We're nearly fed up with Ireland.

W. R. W. (Waylake).—"I am prepared to supply assorted samples of other Christian and just methods of dealing with poor Fritz at very low rates." The unassorted one you send us will suffice for the moment.

"A JOCK" (Barracks, Lincoln).—"As a soldier—my only excuse for writing you." That excuse is good all the time. And appreciation from a Scot is good also!

"SUBMARINE" (Blyth).—Two gallant Submariners ask us which is correct—Up South, or Down South. Have it your own way, boys. Guess when in London you sometimes go up West.

"A SOLDIER."—"Will you kindly allow me to speak about the Food Controllers?" Certainly, say what you like, but it will be too thick to print.

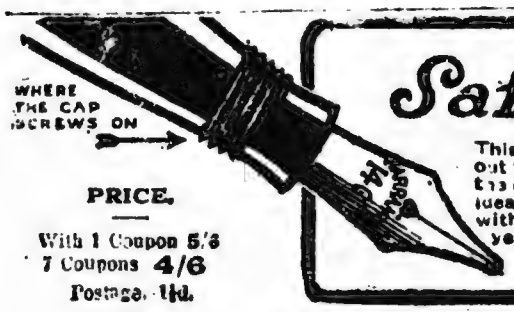
G. B. (Bow).—You are the man who told the Magistrate you had 10 children and 19 grandchildren, and "thought those services ought to be recognised." Yes, you have done your bit, but your wife seems to have helped.

"R.F.A."—"You remember the song 'We don't want to lose you,' etc. Well, I went; now I have come back, but, d—— it all, sir, nobody's kissed me!" Rough luck, but we can't oblige, for you are the wrong make.

MRS. M. (Hackney).—If you persist in calling men of 47 to 50 "old," we shall get quite cross with you. Grandparentage is no indication of decrepitude. It merely proves the "coming on" disposition of our sons and daughters.

W. A., JR. (Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.).—No doubt a sojourn in the U.S. *would* enable us "to get the right focus" on our own country "and see how it looks from the outside." But, at the same time, we cannot help remarking that it did not take *us* three years to get the right focus on the German brute.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)



PRICE.

With 1 Coupon 5/6
7 Coupons 4/6
Postage 1d.

Our Safety Model

This Pen can safely becarried in any position without fear of leakage. When closed for the pocket the nib section is drawn into the ink barrel. An ideal pen for travelling purposes, and is fitted with a strong 14ct. Gold Nib which will give many years of hard wear.

As sold at 15/-

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3s. and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2s. only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1s. Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2 *(Nov. 2nd, 1918.)*

P.O.'s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK.

EXPANSION OF THE BUSINESS.

The thirtieth annual general meeting of this bank was held on 23rd October, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Robert Harvey (the chairman) presiding.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that many important developments had occurred recently in the banking world, involving amalgamations amongst leading English banks, and in some cases the transfer of the control of British bank trading abroad into the hands of the clearing banks. The chairman of one of the foremost of these banks informed his shareholders that he considered it to be an incorrect policy for themselves and similar banks to establish branches in foreign countries, and that he preferred to enter into working arrangements with banks trading outside Great Britain. That was a policy which they would not but think was for a variety of reasons the correct one. This bank had acted as pioneers in that direction when in March last they made a mutual working agreement with Messrs Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., of Manchester, whereby their own representatives were located in the head office of that bank in York Street, Manchester. Simultaneously, their Manchester friends made a similar arrangement with the London and Brasilian Bank in respect of business with Brazil, in which country they had no offices, and by this means shippers were able to deal in one office in Manchester with the documents representing their shipments to any part of South or Central America. This bank also concluded a mutual working agreement with the London and Brasilian Bank to act as agents for them in Brazil and Portugal, whilst they represented them in Chili and Spain. Very recently they had made further mutual working arrangements with the Northern Banking Company of Belfast, and the West Yorkshire Bank. The arrangement in Manchester had already succeeded beyond their expectations. It was quite possible that they might enter into further working arrangements of a similar nature. A further step taken by this bank in the direction of an extension of their sphere of activity was the purchase of the bulk of the shares in the Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Ltd., which had branches in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and San Salvador. Their total investment in this company represented 238,021 shares out of a total of 261,417, so that they held over 90 per cent. of the capital.

In Argentina the plethora of money had increased, and the deposits in the bank amounted on June 30 last to $2,550,000,000, as compared with $1,800,000,000 in 1917 and $1,500,000,000 in 1916, and $1,200,000,000 in 1914. The advances granted by the banks had, however, increased only during the last year from $1,367,000,000 to $1,601,000,000, so that the surplus cash held had largely increased, and the local rate of interest had been reduced.

The financial year, July, 1917, to June, 1918, had been for Chile one of the most prosperous in recent times, although towards the end of the period certain factors had arisen which militated against a continuance of this state of things in certain industries.

After referring to the position and prospects of Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay, Spain and France, in which the bank had considerable interests, the chairman dealt with the accounts. He said that the deposits they held were now £27,000,000, against £14,000,000 in 1917, and £9,000,000 in 1916. The acceptances were £9,000,000, against £6,000,000, and acceptances for customers' account £1,750,000, against £1,300,000. On the other side, their cash in hand and bills receivable, which latter were practically equivalent to cash, had gone up from £12,300,000 to nearly £25,000,000. Advances had increased by £3,300,000 only. These figures demonstrate that they had considered it wise to retain a very large proportion of the additional money entrusted to their care in the most liquid form possible, and their readily available assets in cash and bills represent about 70 per cent. of their total liabilities to the public.

The gross profit amounted to £1,077,000, as against £752,000, and the net profit to £451,000, as compared with £320,000.

The directors propose to pay a final dividend of 7s. 6d. per share, less income tax, to transfer £100,000 to reserve fund, to make the usual appropriation to the staff pension fund and for payment of a bonus, to write off £50,000 from bank premises account, and carry forward £188,000. The total dividend was at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, as compared with 16 per cent. last year, and the directors had every hope that they would be able to maintain their dividend at its present level, and at the same time to continue to make reasonable additions to their reserves.

The report was adopted.

FURNESS, WITHY & CO., LTD.

DEVELOPMENTS OF THE BUSINESS.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on Friday, October 25th, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, E.C. The Right Hon. the Viscount Furness presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Since we last met the registered office of the company has been transferred from Liverpool to London.

The profit for the year, including the balance brought forward, and after making provision for excess profits tax, amounts to £781,672 6s. 4d., of which sum £300,000 has been allocated to depreciation account, and the directors recommend that a bonus of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, be paid on the Ordinary share capital, making a total distribution for the year of 20 per cent., free of tax.

It will be observed that the profit is materially less than shown by the accounts a year ago, the principal reason for the reduction being that the company's fleet has throughout the year traded upon either full requisition or liner requisition, and, therefore, been limited to Blue Book rates of hire. I made reference last year to the inadequacy of these rates, which I considered would not leave a profit equal to the pre-war average. This forecast has proved accurate. Your company, fortunately, has other interests, and is not entirely dependent upon shipping for its revenue. Had it been so, the accounts before you would have disclosed anything but a satisfactory position. The truth of this is manifested by the accounts of those of our subsidiary companies, which are entirely dependent on steamers' earnings. The profits of several of these are considerably below their pre-war average.

Since the close of the financial year we have sold our entire interest in the Northumberland Shipbuilding Company, Limited, which is now under entirely new ownership and control. We have, during the year, acquired a large and well-situated piece of land for the construction of a new shipyard on the River Tees, and we are proceeding with the utmost despatch to equip this site to become one of the most up-to-date shipbuilding yards in the country.

In connection with certain rumours going about, the chairman said: So far as this company is concerned, there are no negotiations in progress or under contemplation, either directly or indirectly, for amalgamation or fusion of interests with any other shipping company.

The report and accounts were adopted.

I will teach YOU to play brilliantly

without Drudgery, Fatigue or Failure.

MY PIANO CORRESPONDENCE LESSONS are so lucid, interesting, and *entirely effective* that in a few months you will play with spirit and feeling, from ordinary music, Songs, Dances, Hymn Tunes, and many famous Classical Gems. I guarantee success to any average person. Adult Beginners *need not know a note to start.*

Send to-day for my illuminating little book: "MIND, MUSCLE, AND KEYBOARD," and see what many hundreds, of all ages and stages, say my system has done for them, and **judge for yourself what it can do for you**

As Elementary Player:—"My lessons have proved very fascinating. My fingers are much more flexible, especially the ring fingers."—Mrs. E. S. (Huddersfield).

A Beginner:—"I find practising a delight instead of a study, and even mastering the notation was a pleasure, you explain everything so cleverly."—E.P.C. (Bedford).

A postcard with your full address (Miss, Mrs., or Mr.) and the word Moderate, Elementary, or Beginner, will bring my book by return.

Mr. H. BECKER, 81, Bristol House, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1.

HEALTH & STRENGTH

FOR THE RUN-DOWN

Send for free booklet to-day and cure yourself at home. At no period were demands upon the nervous stamina more exacting, nor the means whereby it can be reenforced more inadequate than now. Thousands find life a burden. The strain is so great that Nature requires assistance to keep up the mental and physical equilibrium. A Doctor writes: "VIcars constitute an epoch in modern medicine." They give the most gratifying results in cases of

NERVOUS DEBILITY, WEAKNESS, &c.

These wonderful little capsules tone up the whole system, build up broken down tissues and make good the wastage due to the present conditions of life. Try them, you will never regret it; begin to get well.

FREE A little book just published on nerves, weakness, &c., tells you all about VICAPS. If you are a sufferer send for this book and act upon its advice. It means a new life for you, a life full of health and vigour. It costs you nothing, send name and address to Stephen Matthews, & Co. Ltd. (Dept. 3), 9-21, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

DANGER OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

VALUE OF EARLY TREATMENT.

This announcement is issued by the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, a responsible body recognised by the Government. President, Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham. Vice-Presidents, The Bishop of Southwark, Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.D. Chairman of Propaganda, Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.E. General Secretary, Mrs. A. C. Gotto, O.B.E.

The following carefully controlled statistics issued by a Medical Inspector of the U.S. Navy, show the immense value of Early Treatment. The subjects had been with strange women, and did not know whether they had contracted disease.

Hours subsequent to Exposure.	Number of Treatments.	Number of Infections.	Percentage of Infections.
1	1,180	1	0.08
2	1,172	7	6.59
3	521	4	0.77
4	330	2	0.61
5	199	3	1.57
6	321	5	1.58
7	277	6	4.27
8	390	16	4.22
9	283	10	3.62
10	214	11	5.14
More than 10	216	16	7.40
Total ...	5,103	81	1.58

It will be seen that out of those who went for Early (preventive) Treatment within the first hour after taking a risk, only one out of 1,180 developed disease, and that solitary case was cured in two days. The table also shows "the longer one waits, the greater the risk." It is far better not to take the risk at all, but those who succumb to temptation should *immediately* seek medical advice.

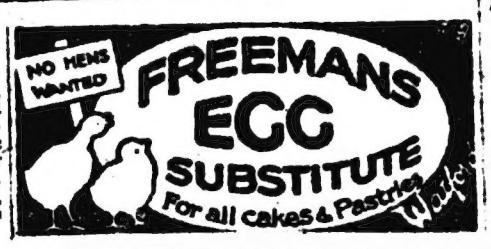
Free treatment, under conditions of secrecy, is provided by the Government in most centres. Apply at the out-patients' department of the nearest hospital, or to the local Medical Officer of Health.

Those who are in any doubt or difficulty should write for information and free literature to N.C.C.V.D., 81, Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, marking your envelope "Medical."

BEDSTEADS! BEDDING!

WHY PAY SHOP PRICES?

Newest patterns in Metal and Wood, Bedding, Wire Mattresses, Cots, etc. All goods sent direct from Factory to Home IN PERFECTLY NEW CONDITION. Send postcard to-day for Illustrated Price List (post free). I allow DISCOUNT FOR CASH or supply goods payable in Monthly Instalments. Established 28 years. CHARLES RILEY, Desk 16, Moorstreet, BIRMINGHAM. Please mention "John Bull" when writing for Lists.



The Church and National Reconstruction.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IS THE CHURCH OF THE NATION; BUT its leading activities are financed by purely spasmodic effort, and it is destitute of any Central Fund for carrying out the work of vital importance to National Reconstruction which will devolve upon it after the war.

The need for such a Fund has long been recognised—to-day it is no longer a Church need but a National one.

WHY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MUST HAVE A CENTRAL FUND.

The great National task for which the Nation will look to the Church after the War—the work of Spiritual Reconstruction—cannot be done with the funds which only too inadequately support Church work now. The smallest sum which will enable the Church to bring the funds for its normal work up to an efficient figure, extend its religious activities as they require to be extended, and provide for the emergency work of Reconstruction is

FIVE MILLION POUNDS.

WHAT THE FUND WILL DO.

No. 1.—RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

The idealism of the Church School is at the root of National character. The Church School aims to produce good Christians, and in the effort produces good citizens.

The Church wishes to maintain her schools, that, by being able to satisfy the demand for continued education, she may give the Nation now as heretofore schools from which religion is not excluded. The Church of England holds that education without a definite religious basis is no education at all.

But to carry out this ideal the Church must have a Central Fund. That the church may have such schools, the Church must have teachers. THE CENTRAL FUND IS IN PART A FUND TO PROVIDE THEM.

Other work of equally National Importance—work which the Church and Church alone can carry out—will be dealt with in subsequent articles.

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

The duty of all good citizens is to help in furthering this great National cause.

The Church of England must never fail in its duty to the Nation and it will not fail. The Church must be provided with a Central Fund NOW, while there is time to use it.

It is the business of every good citizen to put the Church in a position to do what the Nation expects of her.

The Church of England Central Fund is the most profitable investment that the Nation can make. The dividends will be paid in the cure of social mischiefs, the growth of better and more efficient citizenship the birth of better ideals and the stabilising of social order.

Cheques should be made payable to CANON F. PARTRIDGE, *and crossed* BARCLAY'S BANK, LTD.

Address: Sanctuary House, 33, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

To CANON F. PARTRIDGE,

The Church of England Central Fund.

I enclose { *donation* / *a first donation* } of £.....

to the Church of England Central Fund.

Name .....

(*Title or designation*).

Address .....

748 .....

(*Another article of this series will appear in our next issue.*)

'Bullets' Great Turkey Offer!

FIRST PRIZE **£200**

We are offering 1,000 Turkeys as "Bullets" Prizes
150 TURKEYS ARE TO BE WON THIS WEEK.
In consequence of the food restrictions we are this year asking successful competitors to purchase their own Turkeys, and to send the bills to us for settlement. We will pay all such bills up to the amount of £1 10s. each, or, if preferred, a cheque for this sum will be sent in advance to pay for the Turkey. *Such a remarkable prize offer has never before been made by any paper.*
DO NOT MISS THIS WONDERFUL OFFER!

1000 TURKEYS

2ND PRIZE **£20** **£10** 3RD PRIZE

20 PRIZES OF £2:10 = 200 PRIZES OF 5/- = 1000 PRIZES OF 2/6 = 3000 TARGET PRIZES

150 Turkeys to be Won this week!

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the thirty-two examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the examples chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you. Example:—SICK AND TIRED. Bullet:—MY WIFE OF SHOPPING. Example:—WANTED IN PARLIAMENT. Bullet:—WORKERS NOT TALKERS. Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one Coupon for Sixpence. If more coupons are used, an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this competition will be found in our issue dated November 23rd.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 308.

WHAT WILSON DEMANDS	BOTTOMLEY'S BEETING	FOCH'S BUSINESS	WHEN DOCTOR CALLS
GERMANY'S SURRENDER	TRUTH WILL OUT	NEVER IN DOUBT	THE RIGHT TREATMENT
HAIG'S BOYS	WOMAN M.P.	TURKEY'S END	THE FATHERLAND
BEATEN ON POINTS	IN LONG RUN	SICK AND TIRED	TASTING DEFEAT
TALKING NONSENSE	OFTEN WINKED AT	GOING STRONG	A BITTER PILL
DOUBLE EVENT	WANTED IN PARLIAMENT	ON WRONG SIDE	STEALING A KISS
BACK TO FRONT	TRYING HIS BEST	GENERALLY SPEAKING	A SOFT ANSWER
PARTING FRIENDS	NEIGHBOUR'S BABY	NOT IN THESE DAYS	THE KAISER'S LAST HOPE

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Nov. 7th
Example____
Bullet____
Example____
Bullet____
(308) P.O. No.____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced below.
If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.
Signed____
Address____

BE IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS, YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Nov. 7th
Example____
Bullet____
Example____
Bullet____
(308) P.O. No.____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced below.
If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.
Signed____
Address____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No. 308. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Nov. 7th
Example____
Bullet____
Example____
Bullet____
(308) P.O. No.____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced below.
If 3 coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.
Signed____
Address____

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Nov. 7th
Example____
Bullet____
Example____
Bullet____
(308) P.O. No.____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced below.
If 4 coupons are used P.O. for 2/- must be sent.
Signed____
Address____

Next Week's Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 309.

GERMANY'S UNDOING	IN A HOPELESS STATE	COLD COMFORT	AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE
PUTTING THINGS STRAIGHT	WHAT'S WANTED	HANGING HIS HEAD	THING OF THE PAST
STUDYING WAR MAP	WITHOUT COAL	ON SATURDAY NIGHT	RULE BRITANNIA
A PRETTY GIRL	GOING BEGGING	GETTING THE HUMP	WITHOUT A COUPON
WHEN HISSUS VOTES	GERMAN GOLD	TRYING FOR TURKEY	THE KAISER'S PRAYER

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **308** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these Coupons must be addressed "Bullets" No. 308, "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such Coupons must not contain any of the thirty-two examples for competition 308

Result of 305th "Bullets" Competition

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:

Mr. J. W. SIMMONS,
34, Woodfield Terrace, Brierfield.
Example:—KING FERDINAND.
Bullet:—PREFERRED "RETIRING" TO "RISING."

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:

Mrs. CHARLTON, 72, Sherburn Ter., Consett, Durham.
Example:—THE RIGHT SPIRIT.
Bullet:—"NO WORK" IS DEGRADING.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

2nd A.M. A. A. COATES, 122301, Balloon Station, Sheerness, Kent.
Example:—THE FINISHING TOUCH.
Bullet:—"HARD LABOUR" FOR GERMANY.

10 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:

Mrs. C. NICHOLS, 35, Cherryhinton Rd., Cambridge: JOHN BRADBURY—SHOULD PAY TOMMY DAILY.
Mrs. A. GLASBY, 57, Granville St., Hartsley, Yorks: GERMANY NEEDS—PROLONGED "ISOLATION" AFTER "CURE."
Mr. J. HECKLES, 24, Adolphus St., Seaham Harbour: SURPRISING THE HUNS—AIREDALE "IN HIS ELEMENT."
Mr. J. R. GOODWIN, 23, Rathbone Road, Warley: A BURNING QUESTION—WHEN "GO OUT" NEXT?
Mrs. E. TYSON, 17, Shakleton Rd., Earlsden, Coventry: AFTER PEACE—ONLY GERMAN "ADVANCES" NOW.
Mr. A. V. JARRETT, The Lodge, Holmwood, Caterham Valley: SINKING FAST—ODDS AGAINST PEACE.
Mr. S. H. NEWCOMBE, 4, Carlton Terrace, Devonport: LEARNING HIS LESSON—PACIFIST ON TORPEDOED LINER.
Mr. H. DIXON, 5, Roads St., Litherland, Liverpool: SINKING FAST—THE "LIST" INCREASES.
Mr. A. SPENCER, 2, Emily St., Keighley, Yorks: THE KAISER NOW THINKS—WAR'S BEARING "BITTER END." (Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon.)
Mr. H. PEARSON, 38, Breck Road, Blackpool: GLORIOUS NEWS—NO "FIDDLING" WITH "OVERTURES."

10 PRIZES OF £1 EACH:

Mr. C. F. MOORHOUSE, 23, Highmoor Rd., Caversham: AFTER PEACE—BILL "SENTENCED"—TOMMY "DISCHARGED."
Mr. J. SMITH, 6, King Edward Street, Alexandria: WHEN TOMMY ARRIVES—HOME BECOMES "WAR MUSEUM."
Mr. J. M. BELL, 64, Carnwath Rd., Carluke, N.B.: AFTER PEACE—NEUTRALS MAY REGRET NEUTRALITY.
Mr. L. COUGHLIN, 11, Wellington St., Hawick, N.B.: GERMANY NEEDS—"STANDING" ARMY—"MOVING" FLEET.
Mr. STOCKTON, 3, Patch St., Stockton-on-Tees: GLORIOUS NEWS—PRINTER'S STOCK HEADLINE NOW.
Mr. F. WADDINGTON, 3, Pk. Vil., Braunton, Barnstaple: AUSTRIA'S NEXT MOVE—WILL "APPEAL" TO EVERYONE.
Mr. C. E. COOSENS, 54, Camden Square, Camden Town: DARK DAYS—SHEW UP "BRIGHTER GEMS."
Mrs. SMITH, 35, St. Catherine's Rd., Bittern Pk., Sthpt'n: WHAT FOCH IS DOING—"TURNING" TROOPS TO ADVANTAGE.
Sgt. S. H. KIRK, The Buffs, Dover, Kent: THE RIGHT SPIRIT—QUENCHED BULGARIA'S WAR THIRST.
Mr. W. J. TODD, 41, Ferndea Road, Harwich: MY FAVOURITE—"DEMOCRACY" IS EVERY "RACE."

BULLETS RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. All four coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ____ and Co. ____ Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.
4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.
5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

List of Prize-winners in "Bullets" Competition 305 will be published in next week's "Competitors' Journal." Complete List of all Cash and other Prize-winners can be seen at the Offices of "John Bull."

'JOHN BULL'S' GREAT FREE WAR INSURANCE

We are giving, absolutely FREE OF CHARGE, an insurance against **ZEPPELIN** and all other **AIR RAIDS, BOMBARDMENT, INVASION,** or **BLOCKADE.**

CONDITIONS.

Our scheme is simple and comprehensive and does not bother about any "legal representative" or "next of kin." We shall pay the amount to the insured, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else. The Newsagent's Order Form will keep your policy permanently insured during such period as this Insurance Scheme and your order to the Newsagent remain in force.

Claims must be received by us within forty-eight hours of the injury, and must be supported by such evidence as may be required by the Editor, whose decision shall be final upon all questions. Not more than one claim, which must be confined to one of the benefits, can be entertained in respect of any one person or home, the address of which must be registered.

We reserve to ourselves the right to limit our total payments to £10,000, and to pay not more than £2,000 in respect of claims from any one raid. Payment will be made subject to the rights which the claimant may have or acquire against any other newspaper or insurance body, we paying a proportionate amount of the total admitted claim.

Our Insurance Scheme applies exclusively to British born subjects, and those of friendly Powers in the British Isles, and not to Germans, Hungarians, Austrians, Turks, or Bulgarians, even though "naturalised," nor to members of His Majesty's Forces on Active Service, although the home of the latter, situated outside military or naval premises, may be insured.

WHERE WE WILL PAY.

In respect of any registered reader (man, woman or child), who, while on land and in the British Isles, is killed or dies within 28 days of receiving injury from any of the events named	£200
For the loss of two limbs or both eyes, or one eye and a limb	£200
For the loss of one limb or one eye	£100
For week for total temporary disablement for a period not exceeding 26 weeks	£3
Should any part of the home become directly damaged (whether by private residence or residence in connection with a shop), or should the contents be damaged, not exceeding	£350
Loss of one quarter's rent during rebuilding of damaged house, up to	£25
Accidental deaths, injuries not proving fatal, but incapacitating the injured person from following his or her usual employment for more than three days, up to	£10

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TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To.....Newsagent.

Please deliver JOHN BULL to me regularly until further notice.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

Nov. 2, 1918

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
The INSURANCE DEPT., JOHN BULL
Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent

at.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed on land within the British Isles, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Home address.....

Nov. 2, 1918.....

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Coupon is required.

Hilda and I reckoned—

Ideal Terms
(Town or Country).

Worth.	Per Month.
£10 -	£0 5 6
£20 -	0 11 0
£30 -	0 16 6
£40 -	1 2 0
£50 -	1 7 6
£100 -	2 15 0
£200 -	5 10 0
£500 -	13 15 0

Larger Amounts pro rata.

"HILDA and I reckoned out what it would cost us to furnish our new house. But though we got everything we wanted without the slightest trouble, *we haven't spent nearly what we expected.* For, as luck would have it, we'd been advised to go to the 'Midland' Salons—and you'd be astonished at the amount we were able to save there; we had quite a big balance left."

Money buys more at the "Midland."

In these times it is perfectly amazing what a variety of choice the "Midland" give you—over £100,000 of splendidly-made furniture, new and second-hand, of every design and style and period. And for sheer good value, there's nothing to *touch* the "Midland" prices. You get 10% discount for cash, and if you prefer to furnish out of income, on the **"Midland" Ideal Terms,** you can pay at your convenience without disturbing a single investment. The "Midland" give you Free Fire and Aircraft Insurance meanwhile, and charge not a penny for credit—no interest—no deposit—no extras whatsoever.

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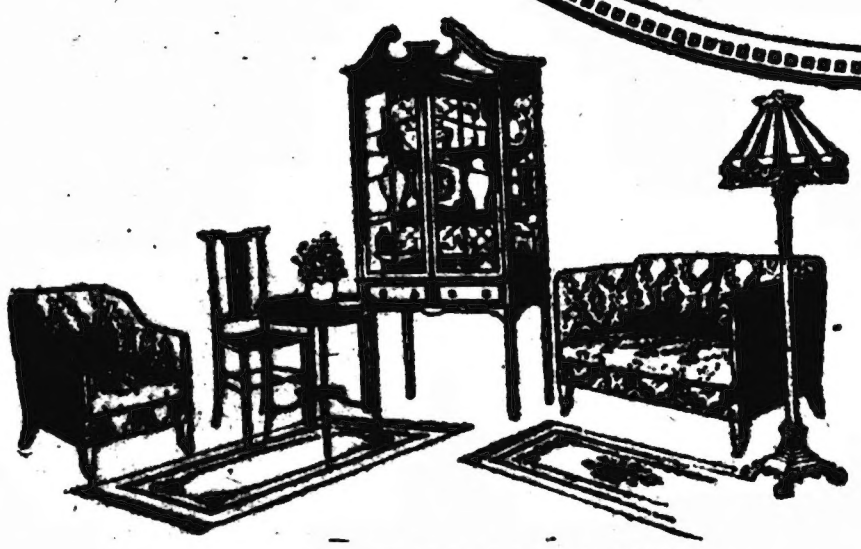
At the "Midland" customers can obtain free insurance policies whereby all furniture purchased on Ideal Terms is Insured against damage by Fire, Aircraft Bombs, or Hostile Bombardment.

10% Discount for Cash or War Loan Scrip.

Midland



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Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station.
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A Medicine with Marvellous Curative Properties.

FULL MONTH'S SUPPLY OFFERED READERS OF "JOHN BULL."

Already thousands of readers of JOHN BULL have taken advantage of our extraordinary offer to send a full month's supply of the natural Vitaliser—Vitæ-Ore—on the understanding that it is only to be paid for if the recipient is benefited. This amazing offer is still open.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It means that the Proprietors are so convinced of the efficacy of Vitæ-Ore to give new health and strength through its vitalising power, that they are prepared to forego the price if it fails to benefit. An exception has to be made; that is, our inability to send the month's supply to those on Active Service. This is a regrettable necessity, but readers will understand that soldiers who are constantly on the move have not the facilities for carrying about the pint of solution which the packet of Vitæ-Ore makes; therefore a proper trial is out of the question.

In accepting the offer of a trial supply on the understanding that it is only to be paid for if benefited, you simply undertake to give Vitæ-Ore a fair and full trial.

SENSATIONAL BENEFIT.

Vitæ-Ore has given new life and virility to thousands of men and women. The vital forces are powerfully and noticeably increased by taking Vitæ-Ore. It has high medical approval, "The Lancet" (the most important medical journal in the world) stating, after analysis, that:—

"THE CLINICAL RESULTS OBTAINED WERE SATISFACTORY."

NOT A PATENT MEDICINE.

Vitæ-Ore is not a patent medicine. The British Government recognises this by exempting it from stamp duty.

Vitæ-Ore is the residue of a natural healing spring, and has been tested and approved by medical men of the highest standing.

NO MONEY TO BE SENT.

Dissolved in water, Vitæ-Ore not only gives new health and tonic strength through its vitalising power, but has directly beneficial action upon many stubborn diseases, and has produced numberless cures in cases of

Nervous Weakness	**Rheumatism**
Debility	**and all "run-**
Dyspepsia	**down" conditions**
Neurasthenia	**resulting from**
Neuritis	**Stomach, Liver and**
Anæmia	**Kidney Weakness.**

It is a powerful nerve and spinal tonic. The headaches, pains in the back, and special weakness of women vanish when it is used. A man who, without having any special disease, suffers from general lack of energy, want of manly vigor and ambition, who is easily fatigued, and does not feel the aggressive strength of manhood, will derive new life from Vitæ-Ore—not by any sudden stimulation, but by a powerful tonic action which permanently benefits. Vitæ-Ore has made new men of thousands. You have a free and fair opportunity to try it for a whole month and see whether it will do the same for you. Fill up the coupon NOW.

IT WILL DO YOU GOOD.

Girls who are bloodless and anæmic—pale, easily tired, short of breath when going upstairs—derive the most wonderful benefits from Vitæ-Ore.

You are asked to use Vitæ-Ore for a month and watch the result. You are to be the judge of the benefit. If the result is satisfactory—if Vitæ-Ore does you good—you pay 4s. 6d. for the whole month's supply. If you are not benefited, simply write and say so and we will ask nothing at all. It is a fair "no benefit no pay" offer.

But Vitæ-Ore WILL do you good. It will strengthen and tone up your nerves and your whole system. Your digestion will be better, your eyes brighter, your skin and complexion clearer and younger-looking.

Do not delay. Take advantage of the offer at once. Fill in the coupon or copy it, and post it to Theo. Noel Co., Ltd. (Dept. 19), 29, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

Fill in or Copy this Coupon for Free Trial of One Month's Supply.

TO THE THEO. NOEL CO., LTD.
(Dept. 19), 29, Ludgate Hill,
London, E.C.4.

DEAR SIRS,—

I enclose 3d. for postage. Please send me a month's supply of "Vitæ-Ore," with full directions and free book of particulars.

I will use it according to the "Directions," and promise to report results in 30 days.

The ailments which trouble me are:—

.....

If it does me good I will send you 4s. 6d. (four shillings and sixpence) in payment for the month's course of treatment. If not, I will write and say so, and in that case YOU ARE TO CHARGE ME NOTHING.

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

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Name .....

Address .....

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Are you satisfied with your

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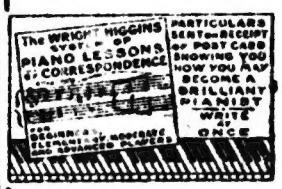
If not and you would like to become a Brilliant Pianist, a Good Accompanist and Sight-reader, write for particulars of the **WRIGHT-HIGGINS SYSTEM of PIANO LESSONS BY CORRESPONDENCE.** My system will undoubtedly save you an enormous amount of **Drudgery, Disappointment** and **Fatigue**, and while **doubling** your efficiency will at least **halve** the time necessary for you to spend at the piano.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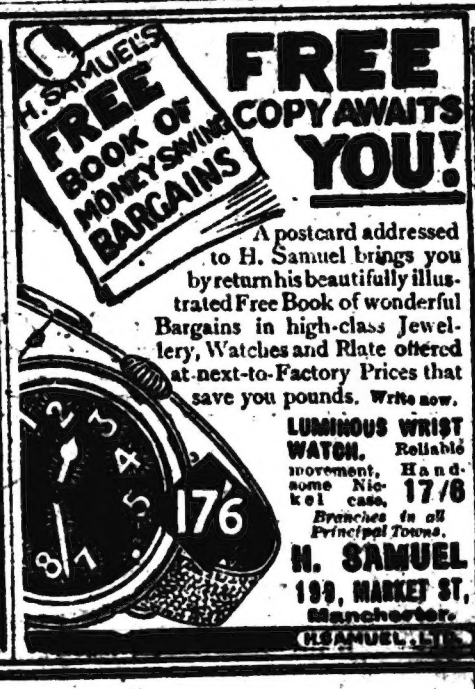
PARTICULARS SENT on RECEIPT OF POST CARD SHOWING YOU HOW YOU MAY BECOME A BRILLIANT PIANIST
WRITE AT ONCE

Write for my little book entitled **"TRAINING versus TEACHING."** Therein you will find an exposition of the principles which underlie my method of tuition, it will also give you full particulars of my System and the fee I charge. (Please state Mr., Mrs., or Miss.) **R. WRIGHT-HIGGINS, F.R.C.O., L. Mus., T.C.L., 7, Oak House, 167, Archway Road, London, Eng.**



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FOR ninepence a week you can possess one of the most extraordinary and fascinating works ever published, **"CUSTOMS OF THE WORLD,"** a popular account of the *most curious* customs of all countries relating to birth, childhood and youth, courtship, marriage, religion, magic, sorcery, superstition, witchcraft, death, funerals, burial, and mourning.

A few of the thousands of customs which are included are: On the birth of a child, a father will lie up as an invalid in addition to the mother; if a child of the undesired sex is born it is thrown into the sea; where women propose to men; the importance of the mother-in-law in different countries; peculiar divorce and marriage ceremonies; curious secret societies; sacrifices; human sacrifices; propitiation ceremonies; elaborate processions; mutilation and torture; suspending by the feet to a tree for many years; lying on spikes; idolatry; ghosts; sorcerers; charms; witches; magicians; suicides of wives; professional spirit-catchers; peculiar burial rites; curious memorials to prevent haunting; wearing of limbs and skull of the deceased.

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